

## Tory MPs enraged by proposal of net 1.7% pay rise

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Conservative MPs last night gave the fullest possible vent to their anger and frustration with the Government over the controversial and embarrassing issue of parliamentary pay.

At a packed and stormy meeting of the backbench 1922 committee in the Commons, MP after MP rose to accuse the Government of incompetence, cowardice and even cheating.

It was estimated afterwards that of more than a dozen speakers, representing a clear cross-section of views, only one or two "came within a mile of supporting the government line."

Earlier, Mr John Biffen, the Commons Leader, had announced the formal Government decision to recommend an increase in salary of only 4 per cent, taking annual pay from £14,510 to £15,090.

But it was not lost on MPs that taken with an extra contribution to an improved pension deal, the net increase would amount to only 1.7 per cent.

Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the 1922 committee, has for weeks past anticipated the wrath of his backbench colleagues in talks with Government ministers.

But Mrs Margaret Thatcher was adamant inside and outside the Cabinet that both ministers and MPs should set an example. It was announced yesterday that Mrs Thatcher would herself take an increase of only 4.12 per cent, again electing to refuse the full prime ministerial salary of £48,520, and instead taking the Cabinet ministers' rise from £37,410 to £38,900.

It is understood that there had been an attempt, in Cabinet papers, to get Mrs Thatcher to agree to a staged increase in the recommendation presented to Parliament by Lord Plowden's Top Salaries Review Board, from £14,510 to £19,000. A staged deal would give MPs, for example, and extra £1,100 a year over four years, with an annual top-up of about 4 per cent.

That was rejected as "the unacceptable face of compromise." But while Labour MPs agreed in consultation with their own leaders that they should go for the full £19,000, Conservative MPs were left with no resolution of the festering problem.

At last night's meeting of the 1922 committee, ministers were accused of being "sneaky" in putting on the pay debate and vote at the end of Commons business next Tuesday, in the hope that a late night vote might damp down the rebellion.

Ministers were also accused of "flunking" the issue of "making a hash of it" and of failing to take into account the undoubted grievances of MPs who have, year by year, seen their pay eroded by governments which have failed to "grasp the nettle".

Their anger was evidently aggravated by some newspaper reports, thought to have been inspired by ministers, that MPs were rushing to "put their snouts in the trough".

Conservative MPs were also told that government whips had been informing new MPs that if they did not vote for the 4 per cent line, then they would never be promoted; they would even be packed from the most junior position of parliamentary private secretary.

Allowances up, page 2



Police clearing the road outside Walton prison, Liverpool, yesterday of demonstrators protesting the innocence of Denis Kelly, aged 33, convicted of the gangland murder of a Texteth newsagent. Protestors tried to prevent a coach carrying Kelly from leaving for Wakefield prison, West Yorkshire.

## Deadline set for Catholic meat ban

By Richard Ford and David Nicholson-Lord

British Catholics have until November to decide whether to accept a return to the traditional abstention from eating meat on Fridays as laid down in a new code of Canon Law promulgated by the Vatican.

The rule, which usually meant Catholics ate fish on Fridays, was abandoned in the late 1960s under the provisions of Vatican II. But the system of voluntary penances which was hoped to follow abandonment has largely failed to materialize, a factor which is thought to have led to the promulgation of the new decree.

Under the terms of the new code, which was published earlier this year and becomes effective in November, Catholics must abstain from meat or another food as a form of self-denial to remind them to do penance. The Catholic hierarchy in each country, however, has the right to choose some alternative form of communal penance.

The signs in England and Wales are already that many ordinary Catholics may be unwilling to accept a form of abstinence increasingly seen as old-fashioned and somewhat inward-looking.

One senior Catholic source said last night that the proposal seemed certain to cause raised eyebrows among many laity. "Just abstaining from meat may be a little too hard to take," he added. "I think it will be accepted but I would not say it will be welcomed."

Other forms of self-denial that are likely to meet with more approval are support for charity or moves providing practical help for the developing world. The Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference for England and Wales last week decided to embark on a wide-ranging process of consultation within the church before reaching a decision.

The proposal is likely to be high on the agenda of the national conference of priests in September as well as within the commissions representing different sections of the church.

A spokesman for Archbishop Derek Worlock, the second senior figure in the hierarchy of the English church, last night rejected the suggestion that the rule was a retrograde step but acknowledged that lack of voluntary penance was partly responsible for its introduction.

In Ireland, Catholic Church officials have expressed the wish to see people abstaining from meat.

After the lifting of the abstinence rule it was thought Catholics would be mature enough to make their own sacrifice but this has not occurred. Even before Vatican II, the rule was being ignored but the Church felt a positive regulation must be introduced that would have to be obeyed by all practising Catholics.

### Tomorrow

the track hard Williams on the ring grid: how to tame a racing car

the trail money to the land of the godfathers, out west to Tucson, Arizona

a diet ryl Downing eschews fat with the latest substitutes

saline Norman sorts on how the lifting is going in the at Sotheby's auction.

### Gibraltar initiative by Madrid

Fernando Morán, the Spanish Foreign Minister, said yesterday that Spain would submit a formula to the European Commission aimed at solving the problem of Gibraltar.

He said: "The Gibraltar issue must be solved. The people must be able to keep their British citizenship."

### Death penalty debate

ing to a typesetting error, the paragraph of the lead story yesterday's Times referred to the death penalty as taken in "The new use of Lords", instead of "the Commons".

### S rates fear

interest rates could rise in short term, the Federal Reserve Board said. In Britain, Confederation of British Industry said that British rates did not follow the American.

Page 15

### Ferry expansion

by the Viking Line is investing £15m to make Ramsgate, Kent, a rival to Dover as a Channel ferry port. Page 3

### Nuclear link-up

Japan and US officials have been holding talks in Washington on possible cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Page 5

### Robbery charge

men will face Horseferry Road magistrates, London, charged with robbing a jeweller in Knightsbridge, of £1,429,000 in gems and a possession weapons. They are Arthur Rachel, aged 42, and John Jerry Scalise, aged 42, of Chicago.

### Centers study

the news agency, has sent its auditors to study the ability of offering shares in company on the Stock Exchange. Page 15

### Uruguay ban

Uruguay's military Government last night banned a rally scheduled for next 6 and kept on ice its relations with political parties on a return to civilian rule.

Rally called, page 7

### Access dates

Commons is to adjourn for summer recess on July 29. The Lords will adjourn on July 27.

### Radler's 64

course record round of 64, on under par, left the veteran Craig Stadler, three shots ahead in the Open golf championship at Royal Birkdale, when Nick Faldo and Sam Snead each had a 68. Page 23

### Radall's 75

rek Randall scored 75 not out in the first Test. Hadlee & six wickets for 53 runs, but in Zealand were 17-3 at the close. Page 22

older page 13

here: On NHS cuts, from Mr J. Huckleby; rates, from Mr J. Porter, and Mr J. R. vilt; Financial Times dispute in Mr W. T. Booroff; selling articles: After hanging; all debt; stores, pages 10-12

offrey Smith interviews Mr alter Mondale; a portrait of John King, chairman of fish Airways; the new Footy to lead Labour; Spectrum; nes Guide to the British and Prix; Friday; arital problems of Muslim men; Breaking down the fast wall; Medical Britain; itary, page 14

Philip Zec, Mr Alan Hooper

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## Save water appeal to homes

Householders were urged yesterday to stop using hoses and sprinklers during the heatwave to conserve water.

The National Water Council (NWC) made the appeal in spite of reservoir levels being above normal as a result of heavy rainfalls in April and May.

An increased demand for water, in some cases 30 per cent higher than normal, was the main problem and consumers living on high ground or at the end of some mains were suffering a reduction in pressure.

Hosepipes and sprinklers have been banned in Gwynedd, Wales, certain parts of the Thames area and in central



Nottinghamshire from mid-night tonight.

The NWC has warned that if its appeals for moderation go unheeded, the ban might be widened. Switching on a sprinkler overnight uses twice as much water as the average household uses for domestic purposes during the day, it said.

Cardiff was one of the warmest places in Britain, with a recorded temperature of 88°F. A similar figure was registered in London and at Benson in Oxfordshire. These were slightly lower than over the past few days but the warm weather is likely to continue at similar temperatures for the next few days.

The only rain fell in isolated thunderstorms in the Midlands. Weather forecasts, back page

## Remarriage in church approved

From Clifford Langley, Religious Affairs Correspondent, York

A reluctant and divided General Synod was finally persuaded last night to approve a scheme for remarrying divorced people in the Church of England.

Heavy criticism was directed at almost every detail of the scheme but the mood of the debate gradually hardened into determination to try it as the best option available, with the possibility of revising it in the light of experience.

The scheme, which may be ready for operation next year, provides for a panel of expert advisers to recommend which individual cases should be allowed a second marriage in church.

The advisers will have a written report on each case from the clergyman concerned, based on inquiries, which he will be required to make.

If the diocesan bishop accepts the panel's recommendation he will formally relieve the previously married person from the obligations of the previous marriage vows.

The scheme had a rough passage through 14 attempts to amend the resolution which proposed it.

First, moved by the Rev Richard Holloway of Newcastle diocese, asked for second thoughts because "this procedure will not sufficiently acceptable throughout the church."

That was defeated by 233 votes to 211, indicating the synod's uncertainty. The Bishop of Durham, Dr John Habgood, said the number of amendments alone was enough to show that the synod was in great difficulty.

The main alternative before the synod was to leave the remarriage of divorcees entirely to the discretion of the clergyman concerned.

Canon Douglas Rhymes of Southwark diocese in London said that would make life almost impossible for a clergyman when he felt he had to turn a case down.

The final endorsement of the scheme was given by the House of Bishops by 33 votes to 10, by the House of Clergy by 131 to 64, and in the House of Laity by 120 to 69.

## Government orders study into selling off airports

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

The Government has told the British Airports Authority to carry out urgent studies into turning its major airports - Heathrow, Gatwick, Glasgow and Edinburgh - into private companies, Mr Norman Payne, the chairman, disclosed yesterday.

The instruction came from Mr Tom King, the Transport Secretary, soon after the election, and runs counter to the authority's previous promise to "introduce private capital while keeping the airports in one unit."

The study is expected to take four to six weeks and as yet he had no idea of its outcome, Mr Payne said. But he expected it would lead to a stock market flotation. The idea of performance bonds investigated by authority before the election was now over and done with.

Speaking at a London press conference, Mr Payne reported profits of £35m for the last financial year, £4.7m down on the previous year.

He blamed the continued recession in air transport, producing only one per cent

traffic growth last year, and landing charges pegged at 1981 levels. But as the world economy perked up, traffic this year should rise 2.5 per cent he predicted, and the authority's profit to more than £37m.

Prestwick, Scotland, remains the authority's main problem airport, with a £3.4m loss. A major publicity campaign is under way in Canada and the United States to persuade American tourists to visit Scotland, but it is too early to assess results, Mr Payne said.

Investment of nearly £100m, largely in the fourth terminal at Heathrow, was at a record level and amounted to nearly a third of the total turnover.

Commercial operations such as duty free sales, accounted at £131m for nearly half the authority's revenue and made a \$49m profit compared with a \$9m loss on handling fees and other traffic activities.

With steadily rising profits since its formation 17 years ago, British Airports is one of the ripest plums on the privatization tree, and could raise most, if not all, the extra £500m the Chancellor wants from this source before the end of the year.

Key figures for the separate airports last year are: Heathrow profit: £43.6m. Passengers: 26.6m. Aircraft movements: 275,000.

Gatwick: Profit: £775,000. Passengers: 11.5m. Aircraft movements: 151,000.

Stansted: Loss: £4.6m. Passengers: 300,000. Aircraft movements: 35,000.

Glasgow: Profit: £740,000. Passengers: 2.4m. Aircraft movements: 85,500.

Edinburgh: Loss: £1.3m. Passengers: 1.2m. Aircraft movements: 67,500.

Prestwick: Loss: £3.4m. Passengers: 400,000. Aircraft movements: 28,600.

Aberdeen: Profit: £590,000. Passengers: 1.7m. Aircraft movements: 110,600.

Gatwick, once a white elephant, is rapidly turning into a highly successful airport, and there is little doubt that Stansted could be so too if developed as London's third airport along the lines proposed by the authority.

## Pro-hanging MPs feel betrayed by vote

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

There was wide agreement among MPs yesterday, after the six decisive votes on Wednesday night against restoring the death penalty for murder, that the argument is over for the next five years, so far as Parliament is concerned, and possibly for all future Parliaments.

There was also bitter criticism of ministers, and of the Prime Minister in particular, among Conservative campaigners for restoration, for having blown hot and cold by first promising a Government Bill to give effect to a vote in favour of hanging and then withdrawing the promise.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, was accused in the voting lobbies by restorationists who complained of having been let down. One senior backbench chairman, conspicuous for his support of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, was heard to say:

"The Government of the Irish Republic was relieved at the result of the hanging debate (Richard Ford writes from Belfast). Ireland retains hanging for the killing of policemen and judges but the last six sentences have been commuted to life imprisonment, and both Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Prime Minister, and Mr Charles Haughey, leader of the Opposition, are opposed to capital punishment."

Such an appearance is the equivalent in the union movement of being called before High Court bench and it would be unprecedented for the NGA to ignore such an invitation or indeed any recommendation from the finance and general purposes committee.

An early indication of whether the union, which has had 270 members on strike for nearly seven weeks at the Financial Times, will cooperate is likely to come this afternoon when the strikers have been called to a meeting of their chapel (office branch).

Mr Bryn Griffiths, NGA president, will read Mr Murray's letter to the meeting but any final decision on whether to cooperate with the TUC general secretary's request is likely to rest with a meeting of the NGA national council next Thursday.

If that meeting decides on a policy of defiance there is already a meeting of the TUC finance and general purposes committee.

Continued on back page, col 1

## TUC act on FT dispute

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The TUC last night moved to impose its will on the National Graphical Association in the dispute at the Financial Times and urged the union to accept the independent mediator's report which largely supports a management pay offer.

Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, wrote to Mr Joe Warr, NGA general secretary, urging him and his union to accept the mediator's report and go back into negotiations to get a speedy return to work.

The letter is the first step in the informal TUC disciplinary process and it is understood that Mr Murray would be prepared to call the NGA to appear before a meeting in 10 days time of the TUC "inner cabinet" if his appeal is refused.

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Continued on back page, col 1

## Howe debut with the top Reagan men

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Sir Geoffrey Howe, on his first visit to Washington since becoming Foreign Secretary, yesterday held a series of meetings with top US officials which read like an entry from the *Who's Who* of the Reagan Administration.

In addition to a half-hour meeting with President Reagan in the White House, Sir Geoffrey discussed arms control issues and the deployment of cruise missiles in Britain with Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary; foreign policy issues including the Middle East, Central America and East-West relations in a lengthy session with Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State; and economic issues with Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary.

Although Sir Geoffrey saw eye-to-eye with his American hosts on most issues, there were differences of view about what Britain fears is a drift towards protectionism by the United States. These fears were underscored last week by the Reagan Administration's decision to impose tariffs and quotas on specialty steel imports, a move which has been condemned by the EEC.

After the lifting of the abstinence rule it was thought Catholics would be mature enough to make their own sacrifice but this has not occurred. Even before Vatican II, the rule was being ignored but the Church felt a positive regulation must be introduced that would have to be obeyed by all practising Catholics.

Continued on back page, col 1

## Harrods Sale

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88-piece set for twelve. Harrods Original Price £803. Sale Price £535.

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## Superpower dialogues on arms, human rights and trade

## China and US discuss nuclear deal

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Chinese and United States officials have been holding talks here on nuclear non-proliferation and Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, is planning a visit to Peking later this year.

Both moves could lead to an improvement in Sino-American relations, which have been strained over US arms sales to Taiwan. The nuclear talks, which opened on Monday, have focused on possible cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. China is interested in US equipment for its nuclear power programme.

But US companies are forbidden to sell nuclear technology to

China because, at present, there is no overall agreement between the two countries on cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Moreover, Congress prohibits the export of US nuclear material to countries that have not signed the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty and do not accept the inspection and other safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

American officials have warned that the talks there may not lead to an agreement and thus leave a two-year-old impasse unresolved.

Mr Weinberger is planning

his first visit as Defence Secretary to China in late September or early October, but firm arrangements are still being worked out, Pentagon officials said.

Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, went to Peking for talks in February and Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the Commerce Secretary, in May, when he told the Chinese that the US would speed the processing of their applications for advanced non-nuclear technology.

Mr Weinberger had earlier opposed easing the restrictions on grounds that such tech-

nology could be used to build advanced weapons.

The Reagan administration agreed in 1981 to consider sales of weapons to Peking on a case-by-case basis, but so far there have been no such sales.

During the visit by Mr Weinberger, the Chinese may show interest in buying US lorries, armoured troop carriers, anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles and communications equipment, American sources said.

The visit is likely to take place before Mr Wu Zhaoguan, the Chinese Foreign Minister, comes here in October for talks

## Madrid negotiators seek rapid accord

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The chief United States and Soviet delegates met in private for more than an hour yesterday on the sidelines of the European security review conference.

The Spanish chairman of the meeting said afterwards that both men had told him they had taken a decision to reach rapid agreement on ending the conference, which has been going on in Madrid for nearly three years.

Mr Max Kampelman, the American delegate, arrived yesterday direct from seeing President Reagan in Washington. "We have always said we are looking for deeds and these would have a very decided impact", he said after meeting Mr Anatoly Kovalev, a Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister.

But Mr Kampelman declined to confirm that the release of important Soviet dissidents may be a condition set by President Reagan for approving a compromise end to the conference.

WASHINGTON: The Soviet Union has assured the United States that it will allow



Mr Kampelman: Optimistic about outcome

some dissidents to emigrate by the end of the year, Reagan Administration officials said here (Bernard Gwertzman of The New York Times reports).

The officials said Moscow had privately indicated the names of some it said would be allowed to leave, but none of them was as prominent as Anatoly Shcharansky, Yuri Orlov or Andrei Sakharov.

## Bush keeps nerve gas project alive

From Our Correspondent Washington

Vice-President George Bush cast a rare tie-breaking vote in the Senate to get approval for President Reagan's request to end a *de facto* freeze on production of chemical weapons by manufacturing binary nerve gas shells.

The Vice-President's vote on Wednesday defeated an amendment that would have prohibited their production. It was the first time since 1977 that a vice-president had broken a Senate tie, the only circumstance under which he is allowed to vote in the chamber.

The Democrat-majority House of Representatives rejected President Reagan's nerve gas weapon production request a month ago and the whole matter will now have to be fought out in "conference" between the Senate and House leadership.

The Senate votes came on a Bill that would authorize almost \$30 billion (£13 billion) in military spending for the fiscal year beginning on October 1.

## Hopes for a softer line at Start

From Our Correspondent Washington

The United States hopes the recent elaboration of the Soviet proposals in the Geneva strategic arms reduction talks (Start) indicates Moscow's intention to show flexibility and move the complex negotiations forward.

According to press reports here, Soviet negotiators made a new proposal on long-range nuclear weapons last week that would limit each side to about 1,200 land and submarine-based multiple-warhead missiles and strategic bombers armed with cruise missiles. Single warhead missiles were not included in this limit.

However, the new proposal would let Moscow keep nearly all the big missiles that most threaten the United States and therefore does not deal with the weapons about which the Reagan Administration is most concerned.

Herr Egon Bahr, the Social Democratic defence and disarmament spokesman, has flown to Moscow a week after Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to tell the Soviet leadership his party's position on the deployment of Nato missiles and urge them to make the Geneva arms talks a success (Michael Binyon writes).

In three days of talks Herr Bahr, who publicly opposes deployment this autumn, will also explain his party's support for the Soviet contention that British and French missiles must be included in the arms talks. He said the number of warheads was growing each week.



Dropping in: US Marines parachuting over Beirut during an exercise with French and Lebanese soldiers. The peace-force troops jumped from a helicopter.

## Special police unit to fight Jewish zealots

From Moshe Brilliant Jerusalem

The police in Jerusalem yesterday set up a special task force to enforce law and order in the Mea Shearim quarter of the city, a bastion of Jewish religious zealots who reject the Jewish state as "heretical".

The move came after nightly clashes this week in which both sides were reported to have used tear gas and the zealots threw stones, dropped cinder blocks from rooftops and set refuse ablaze. There were casualties on both sides.

The direct cause of this week's demonstrations was archaeological excavation in the city of David in Jerusalem which the zealots claim includes an area that has been a Jewish cemetery.

## Ethiopia aid appeals fall on deaf ears

From Alan McGregor Geneva

The response to international aid appeals on behalf of some four million people suffering from the effects of drought in northern Ethiopia has so far been unsatisfactory. Mr Dawit Wolde Giorgis, the Ethiopian relief commissioner, said yesterday in Geneva.

About 900,000 tons of grain was needed for an 18-month emergency period but only 90,000 tons had as yet been offered after the March appeal by the UN Disaster Relief Office. Fifty four-wheel-drive lorries had been requested, but only spare parts for existing vehicles were forthcoming accompanied by a multinational maintenance team.

## Reluctant bride's suicide shocks Italy

From Peter Nichols Rome

The suicide of a Calabrian girl, Maria Malota, aged 17, who killed herself to avoid marrying a 37-year-old brick-layer chosen by her mother as her future husband, has caused an outcry in Italy.

The tragedy happened in the little town of Fabrizia in the hills overlooking the Ionian Sea. It is a poor place and the girl's family is modest. Maria first tried to kill herself by cutting her veins and then successfully by shooting herself low in the stomach.

The town is a short distance from the resorts of the Gulf of Squillace, but it is one of those corners of Old Calabria left relatively untouched by change.

The mother, who still apparently tries to maintain that her daughter wanted to marry the man the family had chosen for her, said her death occurred by accident while she was cleaning her father's shotgun.

The girl, her mother said, had lately become difficult after taking to smoking, and she added that she would not like this habit known to other people in Fabrizia.

On the day after the shooting the 14 members and friends of the family were described as grouped almost motionless like statues in the dark living room, occasionally making cries of grief as they passed a photograph of the girl from hand to hand.

Il Messaggero said that Maria was engaged two years ago to Signor Antonio La Rosa, who works near the northern city of Modena.

He accepted, as a condition of the marriage planned for next month, that he would not take Maria to Modena after the wedding, but leave her at her mother's home and send her living expenses every month.

It seems that Signor La Rosa knew nothing of her objection to him and had already accepted a postponement of the marriage. The conflict is seen to have been between the girl and her mother, between two generations of Calabrian women.

The Rome newspaper La Repubblica called it the Italian equivalent of the 450 brides burnt alive because their dowries were rejected as inadequate.

Gandhi dowry plea, page 7



Mr Aksoy: Murdered in busy street

## Turkish envoy shot dead

Brussels - A Turkish diplomat was shot dead yesterday as he got into his car at the height of the morning rush hour in a busy Brussels street (Ian Murray writes).

Mr Dursun Aksoy, aged 39, was killed by two pistol shots fired through the windscreen. The assassin ran off and Armenian resistance groups later claimed responsibility.

ANKARA: Turkey has requested the Belgian authorities to adopt all necessary measures to ensure the capture and punishment of the assassin (Rasit Gurdilek writes).

## Floods worsen

Buenos Aires (Reuters) - Severe flooding in north east Argentina worsened as the River Uruguay continued rising and a fresh surge of floodwater came downstream from Brazil on the River Parana. Damage is estimated to be more than \$650m and 126,000 people have been evacuated from their homes.

## Rope trick

New York (Reuters) - Tehching Hsieh is to spend the next year tied by an 8ft rope to Linda Montano - in the name of art. He has already lived in a cage, punched a time-clock every four hours and camped on a Manhattan pavement, each for a year.

## Nuclear halt

Washington (AP) - The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission yesterday ordered five nuclear reactors to be temporarily shut down within 30 days so officials can inspect cooling pipes for cracks.

## Apartheid death

Pietermaritzburg (Reuters) - A Black South African child fell from a lorry and died after being refused admission to a hospital reserved for Indians.

## THE TRUSTHOUSE FORTE PROMISE.

The minutes of the board meeting of Trusthouse Forte Hotels Limited on March 23rd 1983 stated that the company would freeze the published room rates of all UK Hotels until March 1st 1984. Then the policy is to keep prices in step with inflation. The company publishes this information as a public service.

Yours faithfully  
Trusthouse Forte

## Muzorewa hits at Mugabe over attacks on churchgoers

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

The church in Zimbabwe was under persecution while basic freedoms of speech, assembly, and worship were being suppressed, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, a former Prime Minister and resident bishop of the United Methodist Church, said in Harare yesterday.

At a rare press conference, Bishop Muzorewa accused the ruling Zanu (PF) party of being "anti-church, anti-God, anti-peace" and of having planned a riot last Sunday when a stone-throwing crowd disrupted the dedication of a new Methodist church near Harare.

The bishop, who had conducted the dedication service, said that trouble had started after a man riding a government-registered motorcycle circled the church several times "which appeared to be a signal to others to surround the fence and begin stoning people and cars."

The incident lasted for some hours and ended when the police dispersed the stone-throwers with tear gas. One of the parishioners, who is understood to have fired a number of shots after the stone-throwing started, was arrested.

Bishop Muzorewa, who headed the short-lived Zimbabwe Rhodesia administration before independence, said: "The involvement of a person with a

government vehicle leaves no one with any doubt that this was a government and Zanu (PF) party joint-planned evil action."

He added that the service had nothing to do with the United African National Council, the political party of which he is leader. "One of the saddest things is that there are many parents in that service whose children and property were destroyed while trying to liberate this country. The freedoms for which they fought and died are being suppressed."

The House of Assembly on Wednesday approved by 58 votes to eight a further extension of the state of emergency.

Mr Josiah Chinamano, acting president of the opposition Patriotic Front party, said that the emergency powers were being misused and cited the detention of three MPs from his party.

● **JOHANNESBURG:** Bishop Desmond Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, said yesterday that his latest application for a passport had apparently been rejected and that he would have to cancel a speaking tour of the US, Britain, Canada and New Zealand (AP reports).

## Transkei changes homelands stance

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

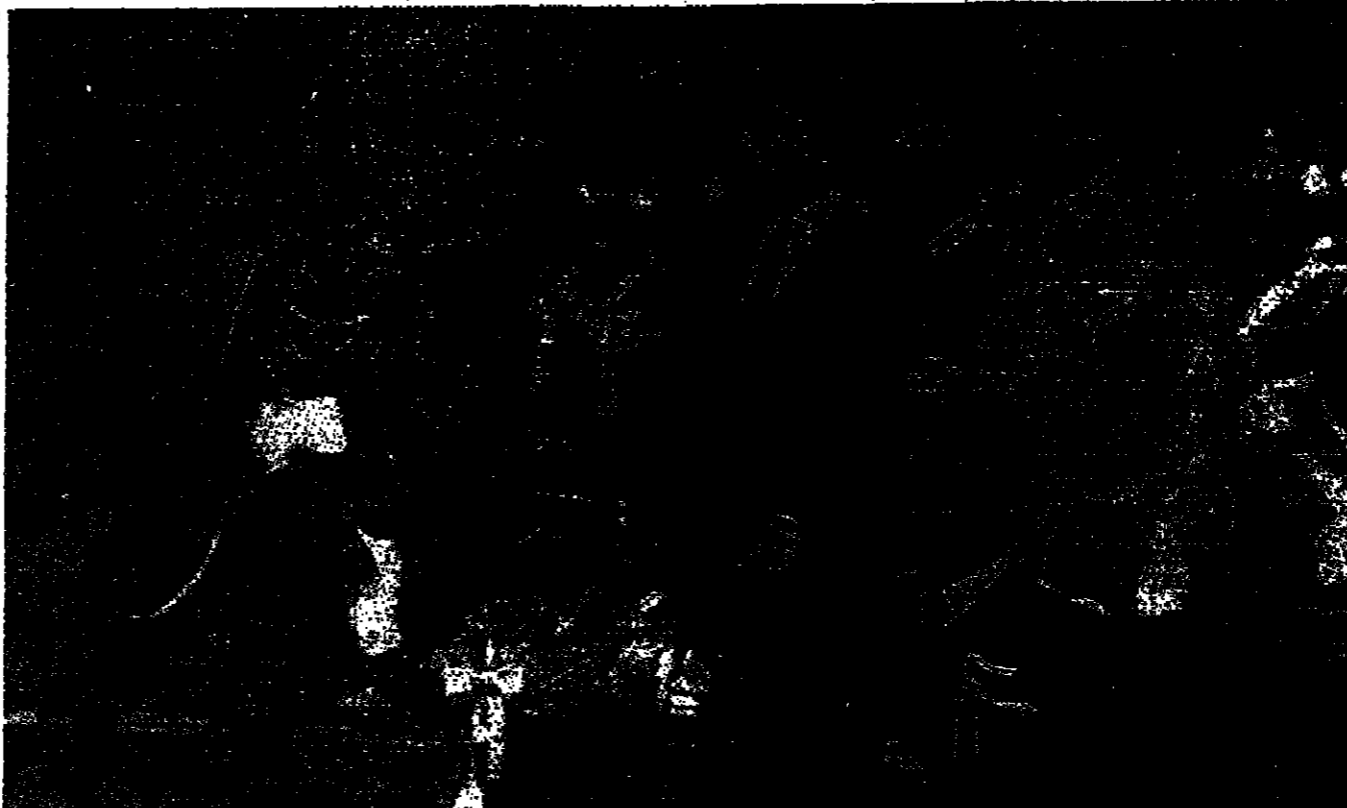
In a striking change of course, President Kaiser Matanzima of Transkei, one of South Africa's four "independent" tribal homelands, has pledged to work for the reintegration of his territory into "a greater South Africa" based on non-racialism, democracy and the equal distribution of land and wealth.

President Matanzima accepted this commitment in a document which he and five other homeland leaders signed after a little-publicized meeting near Johannesburg earlier this week.

The others present at the meeting were Chief Gaba Buthelezi of KwaZulu (Zulu) Dr Cedric Phasuti of Lebowa (North Sotho), Professor Hudson Ntsamisi of Gazankulu (Shangaan/Tsonga), Mr Kenneth Mopeli of Qwaqwa (South Sotho), and Mr Enos Mabuza of KwaNdebele (Swazi).

The proposals, which are before the all-white House of Assembly, provide for a new tricameral Parliament for whites, mixed-blood Coloureds and Indians, subject to the veto of a powerful executive President nominated by the majority party in the white chamber. Black Africans would be excluded.

In their statement the six black leaders commit themselves "to reject the destiny prescribed for us by the white minority and to dismantle established institutions



Eyes right: President Mitterrand reviewing troops yesterday during the hour-long Bastille Day parade on the Champs-Élysées. Next to the President is General Alban Barthez, military governor of Paris.

## Lesotho holds two British 'spies'

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

Two British passport-holders have been arrested in Lesotho after allegedly spying for an unnamed foreign power.

The two men, who have been identified as Mr Desmond McCougle and Mr Patrick Martin, were arrested by Lesotho's security police on June 30. The spying allegations arise out of documents said to have been found in their possession.

The police announcement said the two men had been

watching the movements and homes of African National Congress refugees in Lesotho. They had also allegedly been monitoring security in Lesotho.

The two men were supposed to have been handed over to the British High Commission in Maseru, the Lesotho capital, yesterday morning. But at noon Mr Clive Clements, the British High Commissioner, said the men had not been produced. He said the men had come to Lesotho from South Africa in

the past few weeks and had registered their presence with the High Commission, but nothing further was known about them.

Meanwhile, two Britons are reported to be among six people being held at Nampala in northern Mozambique after their Durban-registered light aircraft landed there to refuel 18 days ago on a flight from the Comoros Islands. They had apparently not sought advance clearance to land.

## Chile court releases party chiefs

Santiago (Reuters) - Señor Gabriel Valdés, the former Chilean Foreign Minister, and two other opposition leaders have been released from jail after being held in connection with Tuesday's day of protest against the military Government.

A court dropped all proceedings against Señor Valdés, the president of the banned Christian Democratic Party, Señor José de Gregorio, its secretary general, and Señor Jorge Lavandero, a former senator. More than 400 people arrested on Tuesday were still held yesterday.

## Massera order

Buenos Aires - An appeal for the release of Admiral Emilio Massera, the former Argentine Navy commander imprisoned on charges relating to the disappearance and presumed murder of a businessman in 1977, has been turned down by a local court.

## Sex ruling

Paris - Shi Pei Pu, the Chinese opera singer charged with helping a French diplomat, M Bernard Boursicot, to spy for the Chinese, is a man, French doctors have decided. The singer claimed to be a woman and to have borne a child by M Boursicot.

## Khomeini will

Tehran (AFP, Reuters) - A sealed copy of Ayatollah Khomeini's will was handed yesterday to an assembly of Iranian religious experts charged with choosing his successor. He is over 80. The experts burst into tears.

## Fleet banned

Athens (AP) - The Greek Government yesterday confirmed reports that it has banned Greek port calls by US Seventh Fleet ships.

## Cave copy

Montignac (AP) - The Lascaux Cave in south-west France with its famous 15,000-year-old rock paintings is to be open to the public from Monday - not the real thing, an exact replica. The originals are too precious.

## Sweet and sour

Peking (AFP) - A Chinese play in which actresses swayed their bodies, snapped their fingers in time to music and put their arms around a man while singing, was attacked as disgusting yesterday by the English-language China Daily.

## China wants OAU role in Chad

Peking (AFP) - Mr Wu Xueqin, the Chinese Foreign Minister, yesterday called for negotiations between warring factions in Chad in order to "prevent superpower meddling and sabotage".

Mr Idriss Miskine, the Foreign Minister of Chad, arrived here yesterday for a week-long official visit which observers thought could include a request for Chinese military aid for the Government in Nijmegen of President Hissène Habré.

The Habré regime is fighting forces loyal to Mr Goukouni Oueddei, the former President, who was ousted from the capital in June last year by Mr Habré's troops after a long civil war.

Mr Wu expressed Peking's concern at the situation and its hope that the two sides would find a fair and reasonable solution, the New China news agency said. He advocated negotiations in an Organization of African Unity framework.

Mr Miskine told the Chinese minister that his Government intended to strengthen cooperation between Chad and China.

● **NDJAMENA:** Government troops appeared to have regained control over a string of vital towns north-east of the Chad capital yesterday after getting supplies of badly needed military equipment from France and other Western allies (Reuters reports).

## Rifkind voices concern at human rights in Uganda

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Britain's newly-appointed Minister of State for African affairs, who is visiting Kampala on a tour of East Africa, has voiced Britain's concern about violations of human rights in areas near the city where an estimated 100,000 people have fled from their homes after intensive military operations against anti-government guerrillas.

The Canadian and Australian High Commissioners, who are based in Kenya, visited Uganda last week and made similar representations to President Obote and to Mr Paulo Muwanga, the Defence Minister and Vice-President.

After requests from the three Commonwealth countries, the Ugandan authorities allowed diplomats to visit parts of Luwero district, 30 miles north of Kampala, where tens of thousands of homeless people, including large numbers of children, are living in poor conditions in trading and mission centres after fleeing from their once prosperous farms.

Apart from an immediate need for food, water and medical facilities, there is a

long-term problem if the farmers do not return quickly to their farms to plant food crops.

At some villages the displaced civilians are under armed guard, but in others they are apparently free to move in and out. They refuse to return to their farms for fear of being accused of supporting the guerrillas, or of being caught in crossfire between government troops and guerrillas.

Britain, the EEC and the United Nations are giving emergency help to the Uganda Government to finance food and relief supplies.

President Obote told the two High Commissioners last week that the Government wanted the displaced farmers to return to their homes, but they feared to do so. He denied local reports that Ugandan troops had been killing, robbing and raping civilians.

● **KAMPALA:** Mr Ernest Stern, senior World Bank vice-president, at the end of a four-day visit to Uganda, endorsed the economic policies of the Government and promised that the bank would continue its substantial lending programme to Kampala (AFP reports).

## Island holiday village opens for business soon

Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

A Club Méditerranée holiday village, which has been criticized by MPs, should be ready for business by the end of next year, the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) promised yesterday. This comes after a contract had been signed by the club with Johnston International, a British company, which is due to start construction within four weeks.

The original agreement to build the complex on the Caribbean island of Providenciales, which belongs to the Turks and Caicos group, was signed in 1980.

The British Government contributed £5m to build an airport for the holidaymakers. The airport and accompanying roads are now virtually complete. But Club Méditerranée's failure to have the village ready for this year's holiday traffic as agreed has led to unhappiness all round.

In particular, it led to criticism of the ODA by the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee (Turks and Caicos Islands: Airport Development on Providenciales: Observations by the Government. HMSO £1.30 Cd 8979).

## Hongkong is confident of capitalist future

from Richard Hughes, Hongkong

Despite the enforced silence of the negotiators, there is growing confidence in Hongkong about the outcome of talks on the future of the territory after 1997.

The public tends to be of the opinion that Hongkong life and living standards and capitalist trading methods will not be basically changed, if only because China itself would suffer as a result.

The Hongkong stock market has recovered from early weakness and more Chinese trading firms will operate in Hongkong. China Resources, the leading Chinese trading corporation in Hongkong, registered unprecedentedly as a "holding" company this week.

China Resources already has 15 department stores in Hongkong, and now plans to establish a brewery.

## Correction

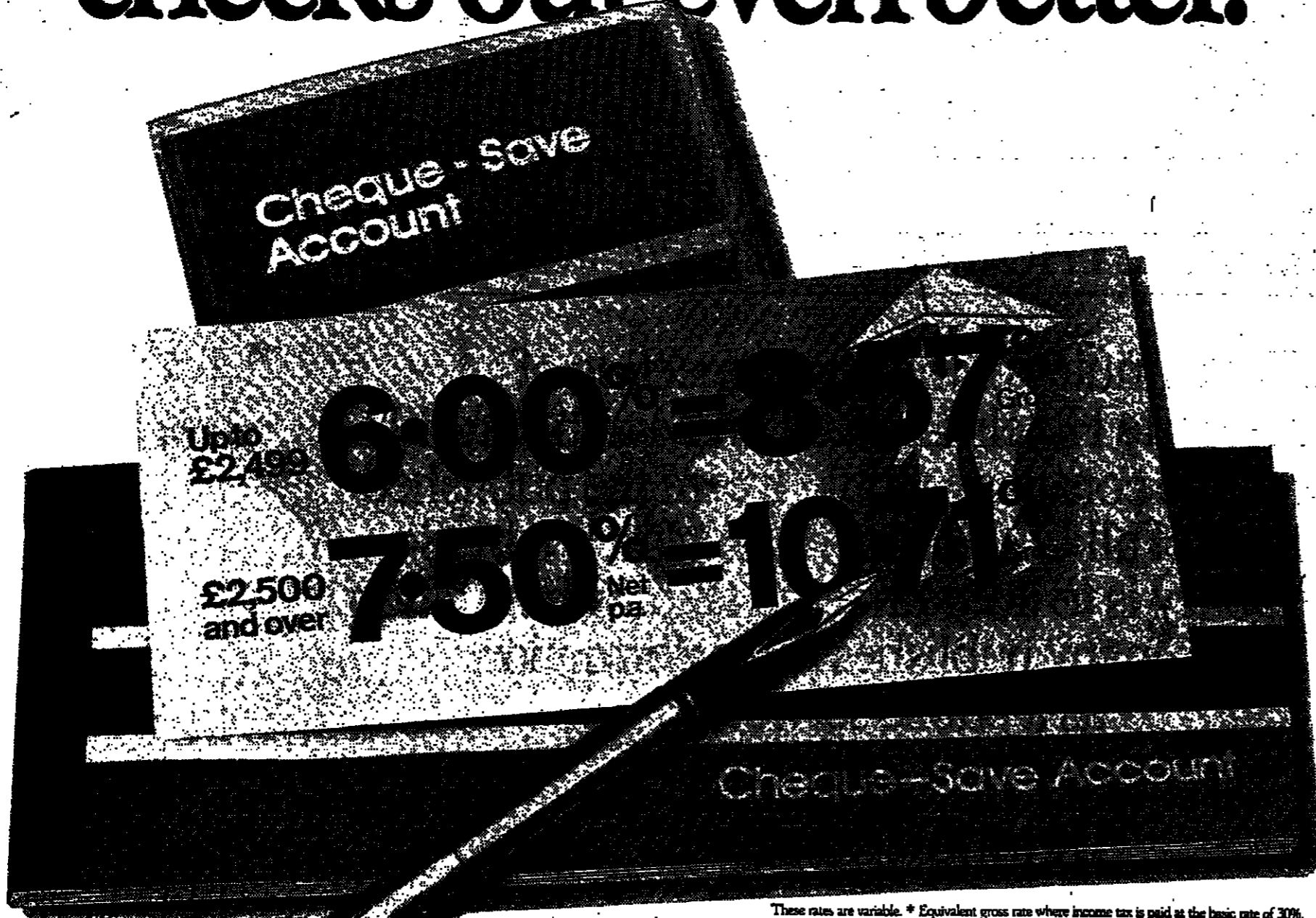
The Monet exhibition at the Grand Palais in Paris, details of which were published on July 9, is closed on Tuesdays. The Sunday entrance fee is 15 francs (£1.25), the same as on weekdays.

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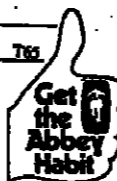
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## Four presidents meet to revive flagging Central America peace initiative

The presidents of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama are to meet this weekend in southern Mexico in an apparent bid to inject fresh life into the flagging Central American peace process.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry announced on Wednesday afternoon that the presidents of the four countries which make up the Contadora Group, a group committed to peace by negotiation in Central America, will meet tomorrow and Sunday in the Caribbean resort of Cancun.

The meeting is to be held "in view of the escalation of the conflicts which endanger peace in Central America", a Mexican Foreign Ministry communiqué says.

The presidential meeting is unprecedented, as the five meetings of the Contadora Group since its formation on January 9 this year have all been held at ministerial level.

This hastily arranged Cancun Group summit reflects the sense of urgency, as the Mexican Foreign Ministry communiqué says, with which the Contadora Group presidents view the need to reach "concrete agreements to reduce tensions" in Central America.

The choice of the word "concrete" here would seem to bear an implicit criticism of the Contadora Group's fruitless efforts so far to find a peaceful,

political way out of the region's violent conflicts.

Every meeting has ended in failure, according to the differences between the rival factions in Central America, particularly Honduras and Nicaragua, between whom the possibility of war has appeared prospectively likely during the seven months that the Contadora Group has been in existence.

The announcement of the meeting tomorrow coincided with a claim by Nicaragua's Army Chief of Staff that more than 2,000 US-backed Nicaraguan rebels based in Honduras were poised to launch an invasion on two fronts.

The decision by the Contadora Group to raise the level of its peace initiative came also just five days after Señor Miguel d'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, made an urgent plea to the Contadora Group to act more firmly in the face of what he called shameless US intervention designed to overthrow the Sandinista revolution.

Yesterday the four Contadora Foreign Ministers held a meeting in Panama City whose purpose was to adopt more specific plans for peace in Central America.

**SAN SALVADOR:** The outgoing US Ambassador to El Salvador warned the Reagan Administration against trying to

impose US standards (Reuters reports).

Mr Dean Hinton, who leaves El Salvador today, made his comments to the American Chamber of Commerce in his last public speech as ambassador.

He said it was too early to make an overall judgment about the success or failure of US policy in El Salvador. The two countries had become highly interdependent during three and a half years of civil war here.

Mr Hinton said: "We North Americans could make no bigger mistake than to think of El Salvador as just a Spanish-speaking equivalent of our own country."

"We will fail if we simply try to impose our standards without at least trying to adapt them to markedly different circumstances. Yet the tendency to do so is at all times almost irresistible."

Graves report disputed: El Salvador's rebel movement claimed on Wednesday that 97 bodies found in shallow graves in a cemetery were those of civilians, not guerrillas as the Army had claimed (AFP reports).

Radio Venceremos, voice of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, rejected an Army statement that the 97 were guerrillas killed in clashes with government forces.



Mother's day: Señora Rosemary Riberos, who was kidnapped and tortured by the Argentine military in 1975, is reunited at Lima international airport with her daughter Tamara after being separated for eight years. Señora Riberos, who is Bolivian, was freed in 1981 and now lives in Zurich.

## Struggle for democracy

### Uruguay's opposition parties call mass protest for August 6

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

Uruguay's opposition parties have issued a call for a mass demonstration on August 6 to support their demands for a "democratic constitution".

The call came after a meeting of the three permitted political parties, which withdrew from constitutional talks with the military regime on July 5. The parties said that the Government of General Gregorio Alvarez was refusing to make concessions on the type of constitution which is to be introduced prior to elections in November 1984.

The politicians will be seeking government authorization for the demonstration. If it goes ahead, it will be the first mass demonstration called jointly by all parties since 1938. The organisers said they hope to repeat the experience of 45 years ago, when opposition groups demanded the end of the dictatorship of President Gabriel Terra.

At the root of the disagreement are radically different ideas of the type of constitution the country should have. The armed forces, according to a civilian politician, "look at the constitution through the keyhole of subversion". They are demanding changes that will continue to give them a free hand against all forms of opposition.

This means the effective removal of *habeas corpus* mechanisms, the preeminence

of military over civilian courts, the removal of constitutional guarantees preventing the security services from entering private homes without search warrants, the widening of state-of-siege powers, and even the right of the armed forces to dictate national security policy to an elected government.

The politicians feel that if they accept these changes they will end up not with democracy but with "a caricature of democracy".

Another reason for their withdrawal was the Government's failure to demonstrate real liberalization. Instead the "political dialogue" was

of military over civilian courts, the removal of constitutional guarantees preventing the security services from entering private homes without search warrants, the widening of state-of-siege powers, and even the right of the armed forces to dictate national security policy to an elected government.

General Alvarez: Refusing concessions

accompanied by arrests and the closure of opposition magazines. Señor Carminillo Mederos Galvan, a delegate of the Blanco Party, was arrested and tried before military courts on charges of insulting the armed forces.

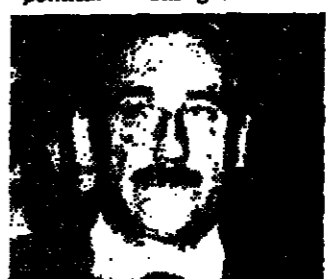
In a wave of arrests over the past few weeks more than 60 student activists have been imprisoned and, according to relatives, savagely tortured. Some have been charged with membership of the banned Communist Party.

The country is now on tenterhooks: the politicians insist that the elections promised for November, 1984, cannot be cancelled, while senior military officers have often hinted that failure to reach agreement in the constitutional talks would lead to at least a postponement.

Señor Julio Sanguinetti, a leading member of the Colorado Party, pointed out that "the elections are not part of an agreement between the armed forces and the political parties. The armed forces promised the nation as a whole that there would be elections."

The parties are describing the suspension of talks as a "recess" to give the Government time to reflect and alter its position. In the meantime, Señor Alberto Zumaran, a member of the Blancos, has proposed a "front for the defence of democracy".

The Government, has few immediate options. If it sticks to its hard line, it will have to proceed against the wishes of the majority. That implies a new wave of repression at a time of economic weakness and against the grain of international opinion.



## Canberra minister quits in scandal

From Tony Dubondin, Melbourne

Mr Mick Young, the Special Minister of State, resigned from the Federal Cabinet last night in the wake of a scandal which followed the expulsion of a Soviet diplomat.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, said that he had asked the Attorney-General to investigate if there had been any breach of the Federal Crimes Act.

The resignation shook Canberra yesterday as there had been no indication anything was amiss. Shortly before 5pm, Mr Hawke called a press conference and announced that Mr Young had offered his resignation and that he had with regret considered it necessary to accept.

Mr Hawke said that the circumstances involved in Mr Young's decision related to matters which would be dealt with by the Hope Royal Commission. The matter goes back to the expulsion on April 22 of Mr Valery Ivanov, a First Secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Canberra. Some weeks later, Mr Hawke announced that Mr David Combe, a former national secretary of the Labour Party and a Canberra lobbyist, had had links with Mr Ivanov and that he had forbidden ministers from having any further contact with Mr Combe.

At his press conference yesterday, Mr Hawke said: "I have this afternoon received a letter from Mr Young tendering his resignation from the ministry. I have, with regret, con-

sidered it necessary to accept his resignation. The circumstances involved in his decision go to matters which will be dealt with by the Hope Royal Commission."

"I refer particularly to Clause 17 of the issues to be resolved in respect of Paragraph C of the commission's terms of reference. That is, and I quote, 'Was there any unauthorised or improper disclosure by any and what minister, of information made available to the NIS committee concerning the relationship between Combe and Ivanov before May 11.'"

"I am also seeking an opinion from the Attorney General as to whether any offence may have been committed under the Crimes Act. It is perfectly clear that I am, therefore, at this point unable to answer any questions on this matter."

"I need hardly say that the resignation of Mr Young, who is a close friend and valued colleague over many years, and my necessary acceptance of that resignation, is for me a matter of profound personal sadness."

Mr Hawke refused to be drawn, other than to say that Mr Young would be replaced by Mr Kim Beasley.

Mr Young had responsibility for electoral reform and was considered a trouble-shooter for the Government. He is aged 46, represents a South Australian constituency, and is a former shearer.

## Gandhi plea on dowry killings

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, yesterday spoke out against crimes against women but insisted social change was the only way of combating them. "Why should society tolerate them?" she asked a meeting of voluntary social workers.

She referred to the spate of murders or suicides of young married women pressed for increased dowry, and declared: "We are making the laws very much stronger, but laws can never solve it."

"No matter how clever you are there will always be some loopholes that some lawyers can take advantage of..."

Talking to a group of chairmen of state social welfare boards, she said that what would be really effective against the dowry crimes would be a change in public opinion, "that is, public opinion as a whole and not a women's group or a group of committed people or people who want to exploit the situation politically".

President Zail Singh, addressing the same meeting, also insisted that any number of laws would not help in checking the atrocities against women, "unless there is a corresponding social and mental awakening, and a voice raised against this evil".

## US-Ireland extradition deal signed

Washington (Reuters) - Ireland and the United States have signed an extradition treaty designed to make it more difficult for wanted fugitives such as guerrillas and drug smugglers from one country to take refuge in the other.

Mr William French Smith, the US Attorney General, said that the treaty would redress an "intolerable situation" in which neither country could seek the arrest and extradition of a fugitive from the other.

While officials at the signing ceremony did not mention the Irish Republican Army or other guerrilla groups, Justice Department sources said that the treaty emphasized President Reagan's commitment to deter the spread of terrorism.

The treaty, signed after six years of negotiations, does not cover Northern Ireland. But Britain has an extradition treaty with the United States and can seek the return of suspected criminals wanted in northern Ireland.

Officials of both countries said that they had no immediate plans to seek arrest or extraditions of fugitives. But the Justice Department said that American fugitives had in the past gone to the Irish Republic seeking refuge from US charges "on everything from murder to fraud".

## Nepal Cabinet set up

Katmandu (AFP) - King Birendra has approved a 21-member council of Ministers under Lokendra Bahadur Chand, the new Prime Minister, after the dissolution of the Nepalese Government on Monday, Nepal radio announced.

Mr Chand, appointed to replace Surya Bahadur Thapa, who was ousted by a no-confi-

dence vote, will hold the defence and royal palace portfolios.

The main Cabinet appointments are: Prime Minister: Lokendra Bahadur Chand; Foreign and Local Development: Jigme Pema; Home Affairs: Padma Shri; Labour: Water Resources and Supply: Padma Shri; Health: Padma Shri; Education: Padma Shri; Industry and Trade: Padma Shri; Agriculture: Padma Shri; Public Works and Transport: Padma Shri; Finance: Padma Shri; and General Secretary: Padma Shri.

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## THE ARTS

## Cinema

## Glimpses of human credibility

"Private Lives": Seven New Soviet Films  
National Film Theatre

Smash Palace (18)  
Screen on Islington Green;  
Cinecenta, Leicester Square

Students of the characters in Russia's classical literature know well the persistent national trait of preferring not to acknowledge unpleasant truths. As a private characteristic it may be an endearing form of politeness, but as a public habit it can be disastrous. Thus for Russians (and Russia remains the dominant centre of the Soviet empire) the idea of social criticism as a creative and positive activity remains quite unfamiliar. Unofficial criticism tends to be seen as anti-social and subversive. Official criticism, is essentially a medium for rebuke and punishment, with "self-criticism", a kind of auto-flagellation, as its extension.

Consequently it has been difficult for Soviet film-makers to follow their colleagues in other socialist countries (notably Hungary and Poland in its pre-Solidarity ferment) in developing a cinema that might stimulate audiences to critical discussion of social organization. Soviet films have rarely gone further than such attempts as Sergei Mikheyev's *The Bonus* and the films of Gleb Panfilov, in which corrupt managers are shown to be clearly atypical and are decisively exposed in the denouement, as exemplary socialist order is restored. Such films have rarely had open ends to trouble the audience after they leave the cinema.

Some of the films in the National Film Theatre's forthcoming (July 25-30) survey of recent Soviet work show a marked step forward in this respect. The film-makers no longer seem inhibited about showing their

characters existing in a world as messy and imperfect as any other. With its fair share of drinks and pickpockets, divorces and unhappy families, shabby homes, shortages, con-men, cheats and rude jacks-in-office, the society they show is a lot more human and credible than the Sunday School utopias of Soviet films of not so long ago.

Easily the best and most significant of the group is *The Train Has Stopped* ("A Train Stopped" is a better translation of the title), which deals squarely with the national problem of the acceptable untruth. It is directed by Vadim Abdrashitov and co-written by him with Alexander Mindadze, and the moral clarity of their view "rouses curiosity about their previous collaborations, which have also apparently dealt with communal spiritual dilemmas".

In their new film a journalist (played by Tarkovsky's favourite actor, Anatoli Solonitsyn, who died soon afterwards) is travelling on a train, which hits some runaway trolleys, killing the driver. Arriving at his destination the journalist finds himself sharing a hotel room with the investigator sent to discover the cause of the accident. Bit by bit this investigator discovers a whole chain of ineptitudes, incompetence and sloppiness, of which the dead driver himself was a part.

The townspeople's interest in creating a monument to the "heroic" driver's memory, become increasingly hostile and obstructive to this seeker after inconvenient truth. Worse, the journalist, who has witnessed the investigation, and with whom the audience has implicitly been invited to identify, cynically publishes in his newspaper a "gloriously uplifting article" on the heroism of the train driver. Nobody wants the boat rocked or the widow's compensation imperilled. The investigator leaves town under the cold stares of a community that will continue to believe what suits it best. There are no blacks and whites, or easy simplifications. A remarkable dialogue exchange brings in question

the historical reasons which have made the role of investigator and interrogator in itself suspect for Russians.

Abdrashitov is a member of the group at Mosfilm Studios led by Yuri Raizman, perhaps the least known in this country of the great Soviet veterans. Now almost 80, and with a directing career stretching back 36 years, Raizman made one of the best films of last year, *Private Life*, which was shown at the London Film Festival and now reappears in this season. It is a very frank portrait of an important bureaucrat who finds himself abruptly retired and begins to discover that life is not so simple or sunny as it appeared from his former official eminence.

Sergei Mikheyev's *Love By Request* and Eldar Ryazanov's *Station for Two* also admit that life is not all songs and sunshine, but they soften the blow with romantic comedy. *Love By Request* tells of the mutual reclamation of two misfits: a drunk and disillusioned factory worker and former sports star, and an insecure and dowdy librarian. It hammers home the useful message that not everyone can be a winner, but being just ordinary may be fun as well as socially necessary. *Station for Two* is a vehicle for the USSR's most popular comedienne, Lyudmila Gurchenko, who has fathered the style of Shirley Maizland on her funny days. Gurchenko's films tend to invite the audience to laugh at their troubles - here they include black marketeers, rude waitresses, sloppy officials and even a rather friendly labour camp.

Laughter, of course, and the constant tear of sentiment, can also be a way of evasion. The director Gleb Panfilov, explaining the "arrest" of his film *Tema*, to Ian Christie, said significantly: "There is a saying - a truth not spoken in its proper time is an unwelcome truth." Panfilov's new film, *Vassa*, is an adaptation or reinterpretation of Gorki's *Vassa Zheltukova*. The play was written in 1910, but totally overhauled, with



But who are the real heirs? - Anna Churikova as Vassa Zheltukova, with Valentina Yakunina as her revolutionary daughter-in-law, in Panfilov's *Vassa*

quite new characters, after the revolution. *Vassa* is a far from hand-tying family shipping enterprise, the *Volga*, and its definitive version Gorki set out to show how her mercantile psychology has warped Vassa's natural maternalist instinct into something monstrous and murderous.

To suit the style of his actress Anna Churikova, Panfilov has made Vassa more sympathetic than she is actually seen, and the gifted designer Nikolai Drvichsky has provided her with a house of *My Fair Lady* art nouveau marvels that unfortunately goes with little else in Vassa's character. It is richly decorative, but as Gorki I prefer the stilted film version of 1953, directed by Leonid Lukov, with the great Maly Theatre actress Vera Pavlova. The compensation of Panfilov's reading is its equivocal

ending. When Vassa dies her servants take possession of her goods, like jetties. The scene cuts to the same *Volga* city today, with motor cars and high-rises, but the great paddle steamer that was the pride of Vassa's fleet still sails up the river. Who, Panfilov seems to ask, are Vassa's real heirs?

Smash Palace shows the New Zealand cinema competing strongly against the Australians. Roger Donaldson's first film, *Sleeping Dogs*, was an effective future-world thriller, which introduced Sam Neill to feature films. His new film is a skilfully structured drama in which a trifling domestic incident escalates uncontrollably to a point of disaster.

Al Shaw, a part-retired racing driver, lives in his car-wrecking yard with his French wife, Jacqueline (Anna Jemison) and their seven-year-

old daughter. Al, devoted to his daughter, is not sensitive enough to his wife's feelings. She in turn is self-centred and shipwrecked. When the inevitable break-up comes, she walks out of Al's Smash Palace, taking the child with her, and starts an affair with the local policeman, Al's best friend. Tormented nearly to madness by the separation from his child, Al's wild scheme of kidnapping her takes everyone to the brink of catastrophe.

The playing, not least by the very unselfconscious child actress Greer Robson, who plays Al and also has a screenplay credit, is a long-established pop musician who has only recently turned to acting. He conveys at once toughness, subjugated violence and sensibility.

David Robinson

## Television

## Good-humoured but salutary

James Boswell has waited two centuries for his television debut, but he could not have arrived at a more opportune moment. Boswell for the Defence (BBC 2) took hanging as its theme, an aspect of British history generally only revived by Hammer Horror and the Police Federation. John Reid is facing the gallows on a charge of stealing sheep and his advocate is Boswell, better known as the pawkly and dissolute amanuensis but here played as a rubicund Scottish gentleman with "one of the best hearts a man ever had". When Mrs Reid was announced as a "handsome tawny woman" it looked like being a night for superlatives - normally the ultimate deterrent.

It might seem difficult to turn sheep-stealing into the material for a 90-minute drama - King

Leor has, at least in modern productions, been played in less time - but a good script can go a long way. Although it might suggest a confusion of *Emmerdale Farm* and *Police 5*, this is in fact a spirited and engaging production.

There is something about the eighteenth century which renders television people light-headed - perhaps all those wigs have something to do with it. But whatever the cause, the actors rose to their opportunity like caps thrown in the air and the dialogue, adapted from Boswell's journal by Mark Harris, was full of little glissandos and flourishes.

As a result, it all seemed very good-humoured; the jury agreed to meet regularly and form a club, and Boswell "much in liquor" stalked the Edinburgh

alleys like a pantomime horse. Scottish law is apparently quite different from the English variety - in this case, in the courtroom at least, it was pure operatic buff.

The drama of crime and punishment always has its macabre aspects, of course, and on this occasion they were well represented by the gallows: "It should hurt my mind", one of the judges confessed, "to think that a flock were not capital". And "Capital" it was, as John Reid walked to his death. Those concerned with such punishments were no doubt interested in the sight of the man squirming on a rope. It is good to know the mechanics of such things, just in case.

Peter Ackroyd

## ECO/Hogwood-Barbican

Until Leonard Bernstein, it is invited to conduct the Academy of Ancient Music, or Sir Georg Solti zip through a few symphonies with the English Concert, I suppose the nearest we shall get to exploring the no-man's-land between ancient and modern, and traditional and experimental, will be the curious affair at the Barbican, when Christopher Hogwood uses the English Chamber Orchestra.

It was not a head-on collision, for Hogwood is too pragmatic a musician to demand the overnight conversion of the ECO to the ancient playing techniques of Muffat and Corelli. And in any case, the ECO - who, incidentally, will be the concert's players - are not the kind of people who would be interested in the sight of the man squirming on a rope. It is good to know the mechanics of such things, just in case.

Peter Ackroyd

## Messiah - St Paul's Cathedral

Although this *Messiah* did not involve a chorus of thousands, as it might have a century ago, it took place in a church and everyone (except myself) stood for the "Hallelujah Chorus". This it was an occasion which fell into the category of ritual rather than performance.

True, the combined choir of St Paul's and Westminster Cathedral formed an ensemble of a size unlikely to overwhelm the clarity of Handel's counterpoint. The hazardous acoustic did that for them. It would tempt, even the *Ring* and *Hogwood* of this world into taking things easily. Yet it was not so much speed as atmosphere and momentum, or lack of it, that put Barry Cole's conducting firmly in the traditionalist camp.

Indeed he went further and perpetuated a more recent tradition by using the chorists in ensemble for the soprano aria. Actually they sang exceedingly well, especially in the magical sequence between the "Pastoral Symphony" and the chorus "Glory to God", and in "I know that my Redeemer liveth". In the former, the contribution of an anonymous

## Concerts

Messiah - St Paul's Cathedral

solos by for short passages was the most stylish and beautiful solo singing of the evening.

His older colleagues rather struggled in comparison. The tenor Alan Green sounded ponderous throughout, even if "Thou shalt break them" had its commanding moments. Geoffrey Shaw, the bass, suffered more than most from the acoustic's lack of sympathy for low male voices, and he could not overcome the barrier of sheer physical distance, although in "The trumpet shall sound" he made some headway with the help of Michael Laird's superbly ringing trumpet obbligato behind him. The counter-tenor Christopher Royall, perhaps more than most, but his tuning was often suspect and his timbre is as yet wanting for the last measure of richness.

In the circumstances it was almost impossible to judge the quality of the London Bach Orchestra's playing, although the general effect seemed fine. But this was a performance craving much more drama and uninhibited joy. Both are qualities that mark *Messiah* not merely as a deeply spiritual work, but as one which is also an unrivalled act of praise.

Stephen Pettitt

Irving Wardle

## Music in Sweden

## The past made fresh and vivid

Entering the palace theatre at Drottningholm, it is less like walking into the past than having the past come up and hit one in the face. Where most buildings have gained quite some patina after the passing of two centuries, here the wall-paper could have been nailed up last week, and the timbered inlaid in plaster niches are crumbling from shoddiness, not age. The past is as fresh and vivid and disorderly as the present, and it is good to see these qualities being reflected in the theatre's productions.

At the end of August, there is a revival of Michael Heston's much praised production of *La cenerentola*, preceded in the repertoire by Moliere's *Don Juan* in a new staging by Göran Järfveth, but at the moment Drottningholm is offering another gifted young director, Cimara's *Il fantasma burlato* mounted by Peter Oskarsen.

The *Snob Ridiculus* was the last opera Cimara wrote before his unproductive sojourn at the court of Catherine the Great, and the last comedy he composed before *The Secret Marriage* for Catherine. It dates from 1787. It is not, however, a partner for Cimara's masterpiece in terms of dramatic interest or musical invention. The central character, Don Fabrizio, is the stock eighteenth-century figure of the middle-class off intoxicated by titles. He wants his daughter to marry a count, but she of course has other ideas, and eventually, after all the usual sorts of confusion, she gets her way by having her lower-born sweetheart pass himself off as a prince of the Moluccans.

This impersonation is the occasion for a nicely unusual quartet gabbled in pseudo-Moluccan gibberish, and there is also a sweetly melancholy

accompanying recitative and aria for the heroine, Doristella, which Ursula Reinhardt-Kiss made, specially, touching through her purity and natural clarity and speed. Otherwise the music falls all too pat along the lines of obviousness, and gives Mr Oskarsen and cast the perfect excuse for a production that never walks when it can run, never smiles when it can giggle or guffaw.

The whole deep space of the Drottningholm stage is almost constantly in use, and one sees a great many of its strikingly delightful stage pictures, like spaces in a sad-sad bunch of Stevie Smith songs by Robin Holloway, his *ender only* to one of 1969, apparently not made to blithely before in public performance. Miss Hardy also gave a thoughtful, winged account of *La Macchiette*'s line *So, Morning City*, setting a stark, *Travelling Wake* for soprano, double bass, and everything-RCAM can muster in the way of electronic sound. She then had to face, and faced well, a stream of questions from the students, whose alert openness to new music was refreshing.

In Pitea, in the far north of Sweden, the programmes were more conventional, but the degree of attention was no less acute. This is after all a community of under 40,000 people almost on the edge of the inhabited world: to receive a visitor from *The Times* was enough to make local headlines, let alone to have for a fortnight the likes of Elizabeth Söderström and Barry Tuckwell giving recitals and master classes.

The closing concert of this festival, given as twilight merged imperceptibly into dawn, was unforgettable. The distinguished Swedish pianist Hans Leygraf began with Mozart playing so rare, so exquisite yet resolutely defined, as to make one wonder amazingly why he has not enjoyed a more exposed career. There was also excellent work from the Finnish cellist Arto Nohas.

Paul Griffiths

## Theatre

As You Like It  
Chichester

The first thing you see is a Watteauesque company dancing a minuet in the orchard and only scattering when Orlando marks the cadence with a blow of his axe. Even then he has trouble getting his complaints over to the fiddle-playing Adam, who is too preoccupied with his instrument to pay attention.

Patrick Garland, in other words, has gone the full eighteenth-century hog in this production: not only in costume and Gallic pronunciation, which causes havoc to the verse when Jacques loses a syllable, but also in the expected contrast of court and countryside. In this version there is no contrast. Robin Fraser Faye's set - an arborescent timber platform above an unadorned main stage - does duty for both locations, and, when the runaways make off to Arden, it is as though they have simply decamped down the garden.

Aubrey Woods doubles as the usurping Frederick and the Duke Senior; and the whole show takes place with an upstage instrumental group who supply courtly accompaniment for the woodland songs, including the duet for two silk-clad boys (a lovely sound, by the way) and a finale where the whole thing takes off into baroque opera.

Trevor Nunn and Stephen Oliver made such an experiment with this play in the late Seventies, and drastically revised it en route from Stratford to London on making the discovery that their actors were ill-equipped to handle eighteenth-century vocal flourishes. The same goes for Mr Garland's company, with the added disadvantage that this production aims more at prettiness than consistency.

For instance, when we get to meet the rustics they are a miscellaneous collection of stereotyped yokels and genteel speakers (like Eunice Roberts's Phebe) who could be courtiers in pastoral fancy dress.

The real loss is that this approach forbids any sense of one world establishing contact with another. When Ronnie Stevens's Touchstone debates manners with Corin (Terence Conoley) the invitation to human contact evaporates into point-scoring comedy. Nor does any parallel develop between Touchstone and Jacques, his exiled opposite number. Everything that happens seems to be part of a game among a party of privileged people.

Within these limits, the game has its points and its moments of truth. Easily the most authoritative figure is Peter Byrne's Jacques, a passionately isolated non-player who comes over as a derisive observer in the human nursery. There is also an interesting Orlando-Rosalind relationship, well forecast in the opening scene where Jonathan Morris only attacks the hulking Oliver (Simon Williams) after getting a spank like a little boy.

As the writing itself shows, he is no match for Rosalind; and Patricia Hodge pushes this contrast to the absolute limit in the haughtiest and most peremptory reading I can remember.

Stephen Pettitt

Irving Wardle

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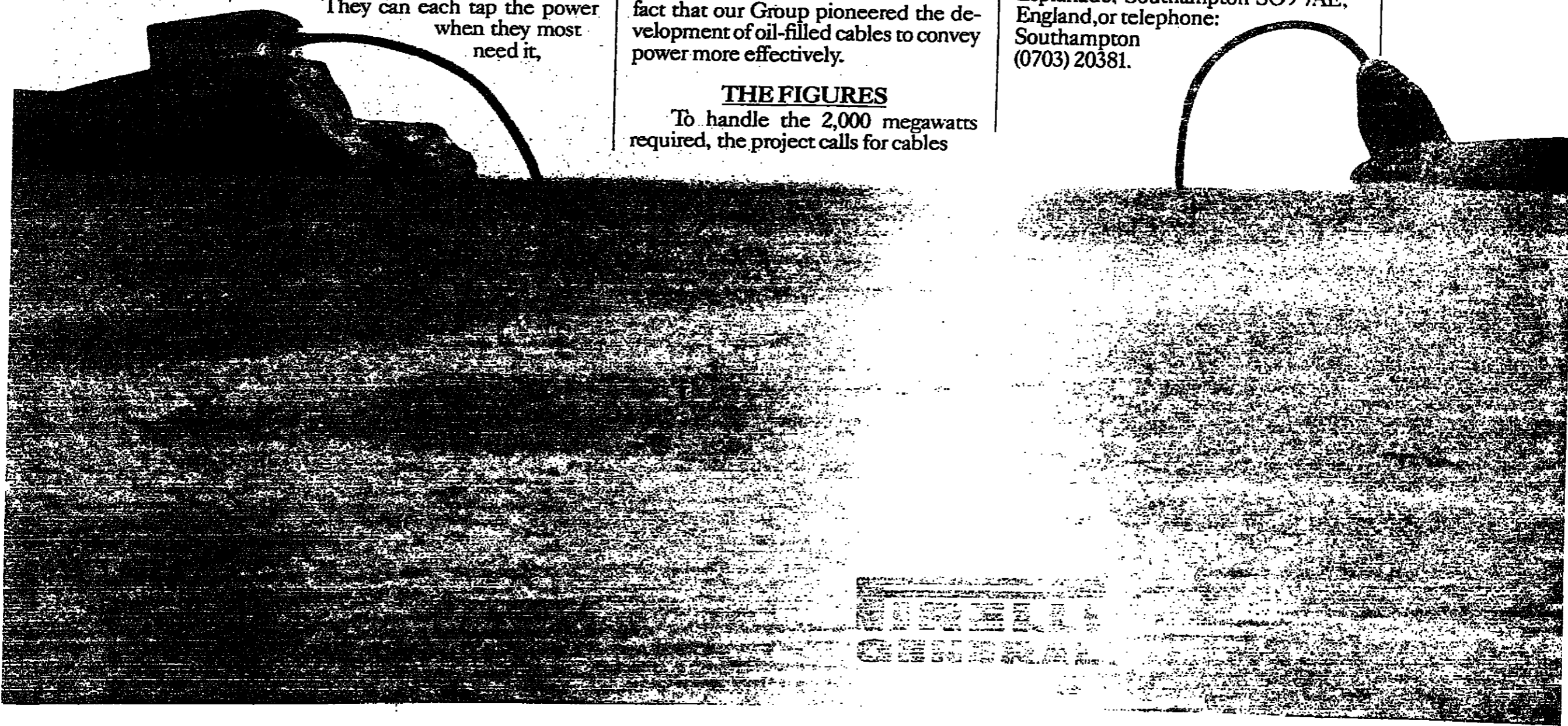
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FRIDAY PAGE

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Killer without a cause

The tragic death this week of Keith Wickenden, popular MP, experienced MP, and adventurous tycoon, was widely reported to be due to pulmonary sarcoidosis. Although this disease is not rare, it is little known to the general public. Its cause is unknown, but it results in chronic inflammation, usually in the lymphatic glands, the lungs, the inner eye and the skin.

Frequently it attacks more than one site, sometimes the disease is associated with changes in calcium metabolism. The inflammation in the lungs, later leading to fibrosis (scarring), and frequently coupled with enlargement of the glands at the base of the lungs, can give rise to marked breathlessness and tiredness, so that patients see their doctors fairly early in the disease. Ninety per cent of patients, usually treated with steroids, recover within two years; 10 per cent tend to develop a so-called progressive sarcoidosis which can be controlled, but not quickly cleared, with the same drugs.

Dr Robert Davies, chest physician to St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, said that heart involvement, although very rare, is in his view, the most common cause of death in sarcoidosis. The disease can either attack the muscles of the heart, giving rise to a cardiomyopathy, or the heart's conducting system; damage to the latter can cause irregular action of the heart and sudden death.

Gardening hazards

Little did Adam, God's first gardener, know that the serpent was not the only danger lurking in the Garden of Eden. Dead, heading the roses, picking the gooseberries, or slashing the black-thorn has its hazards too.

Rheumatologists have long known that, however carefully doctors remove a thorn which has penetrated a joint, cavity some traces are left behind and can be seen under the microscope. In people sensitive to extracts of plant thorns this can give rise to an acute arthritis, plant thorn synovitis, in the pierced and impregnated joint.

Dr S. J. Hawkins of The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases in Bath has now described a case, where rheumatoid arthritis

followed an attack of plant thorn synovitis. The luckless rose pruner developed classic rheumatoid arthritis within a week or two; well within a year her blood not only showed the serological changes associated with that disease, but also demonstrated an immune reaction wherever extract of rose thorn was later injected.

Gardeners are not necessarily safer if they hang up the secateurs, abandon the garden, and take refuge with the cat beside the fire. In another case of mono-articular arthritis was demonstrated in London this week; this time a cat flea was the causative agent.

Deaf shots

Rifle shooting reaches its climax at Bisley this month; the Ashburton yesterday, the Queen's Prize next week. Next month, the "glorious twelfth" starts the shooting season. Throughout the summer, sportsmen have been shattering clay pigeons, while their companions in the Territorial Army have been hitting target tanks on the gunnery ranges at Lulworth.

Twenty years ago these pursuits would have been quite noisy enough to ensure that Harley Street would have had a steady supply of prematurely deafened men.

The Army, mindful of hearing forever damaged by the war or national service, is now very strict; plugs or ear defenders are compulsory on the small arms ranges, and tank crews are protected by "bone domes", crash-helmet-type headgear which combines headphones and ear protectors.

Although Purdeys, the Queen's gunsmiths, said they encourage their customers always to use ear plugs, Peter Brown an Oxfordshire expert, and a shooting man himself, said he was appalled at the number of fellow gunners who were still prepared to destroy pheasants and hearing in the same afternoon.

Acute deafness, often associated with ringing in the ears, usually improves after 24 hours, but each episode causes some residual damage which may not be noticeable until revealed by impairment in hearing in middle age.

Plugs are cheap. Even the most expensive are under £7, so the older shot now shouting at his family, and deaf to his grandchildren, may well wish that he had invested in some 30 years earlier; even now it is not too late to start wearing them so as to preserve what hearing is left.

Dr Thomas Stuttford  
Medical Correspondent

No millions for Mrs Said

Penny Perrick on the marital problems of Muslim women



Mrs Mariyam Said, lately of Oman, presently living in Earl's Court, London, read about Marvin Mitchelson's latest divorce court triumph with some bitterness. Mr Mitchelson's client, a 24-year-old European-born former shop assistant, won a record-breaking £50m share of her Saudi Arabian husband's property, a settlement beyond the dreams of Arab women like Mrs Said, however rich the husbands they are divorcing.

Mrs Said was married against her will to her first cousin in 1975 when she was 23. Five years later she was divorced without her knowledge. She said that her situation is typical of women in the Gulf States. "After the men have finished with you they like you to go back to your own family and live like a nanny, looking after their children, whom they might occasionally visit."

She was sent over to England as a young girl and educated at a secondary school in North London. Later she got a job with the Midland Bank and rented a flat. She said she never intended to become a traditional Muslim wife, shrouded in dark robes, humbly subservient to her husband and living a below-stairs kind of life with her female in-laws. But Mrs Said said that she was tricked into just such a marriage by her father and uncle who wanted their jointly owned property to remain in the family.

First her uncle came to London and persuaded her to come home for a holiday. At Bahrain airport she was greeted effusively by her uncle's son who, in the airport's confusion, managed to take away her passport. This man was 30 years old and his parents stressed how anxious they were to see him married. Mrs Said asked to be allowed to return to England to consider the prospect, but great pressure was put on her by both families and even by her future husband's employer to get the wedding over quickly.

For the first six months of their marriage Mr Said was a kindly, indulgent husband, frequently bringing his wife to London for great shopping binges at Selfridges. Trouble began when Mrs Said insisted on having her first baby delivered at Queen Charlotte's Hospital since she found the medical facilities at home very primitive. This new-fangled idea of hers annoyed her mother-in-law not, apparently, a woman to be trifled with.

By the time the Said's second son was born in 1979, they were a family at war. Mr Said continued to visit his old Oxford Street haunts, but now he left his wife and children at home. The following year, during one of his absences, his brothers came to Mrs Said's house and

dismissed the servants. When Mr Said returned he spent most of his time at his mother's house, coming home to his wife only to threaten her.

The Said's house was leased to them by the international construction company which employed Mr Said. Soon after the chair-throwing incident Mrs Said - she suspects on her husband's say-so - received a letter from the company terminating the lease. Hoping to cool the air, Mrs Said's father-in-law bought her a return ticket to London and, since she was now worried about her own safety, she flew there with her children. Drawn, inevitably, to Oxford Street, Mrs Said saw her husband strolling hand in hand with a glamorous blonde.

Leaving the children in London, she flew home and went straight to the Minister of Justice, demanding that her husband be forced to explain himself in court - "because for the last three years I had no known whether I had a husband or not". In court, Mr Said said that he had divorced his wife in 1980 on the grounds of her desertion. Mrs Said said: "Since we had been living together for most of that year, I wanted to know just when he had divorced me. There were no records of the divorce, although my husband insisted that he had brought two witnesses. He said that no one had told me that I was divorced because if I knew, then I might remarry and my property would pass to a stranger."

Mrs Said insisted on her right to have proper divorce papers and asked for a reasonable amount of maintenance. Although her husband now owned a tile factory, sports shop and several properties the sum awarded to her, on condition that she and the children moved permanently to Oman, was just about enough to pay half the electricity bill. Since she couldn't support two small children on this meagre settlement, she came back to London where she now lives on her own dwindling family capital and her salary as a part-time computer analyst.

Compared to her own five divorced aunts, who has no choice but to return in disgrace and poverty to their families, Mrs Said considers herself lucky. She has a job, a home of her own and freedom to marry again. Nevertheless, she has made her children wards of court, refuses to reveal her real name or to be photographed for this article and puts up with the fact that her flat looks out on to a thunderous stretch of dual-carriageway "because I can see if anyone is coming up the street to find me". What riles her is that "in Islam, women are supposed to be respected and protected, but in fact they have no rights at all."

TALKBACK

Offended parents

From Trevor Berry, Bromley, Kent. The term "one parent family" is offensive to non-custodial parents keen to preserve a worthwhile responsible role as parents. It was therefore disappointing to see Malcolm Wicks, Director of the Centre for Family Policy Studies, make a liberal use of that expression (Family policy test, Wednesday Page, June 29).

The much publicized idea that most divorced men fail in their financial obligations may be a myth. A "survey of access to children after divorce" undertaken among Gingerbread and Families Need Fathers members (Divided Children, 1982 - £1.00) showed that nearly 70 per cent of the custodial mothers were receiving maintenance payments, of whom over 50 per cent were happy with the amount they were receiving. So the study suggests that the majority of separated fathers accept the financial obligation to their absent families to the best of their ability.

"Children of separated parents" would be more apt and less emotive than "one parent family" if it is really the children whose welfare is paramount.

Private grief

From John Hilton, Bath District Schizophrenia Group. Mrs Stokes's harrowing account (Wednesday page, June 29) of her collision with the "open door" policy, plus a psychiatrist with libertarian principles, tells it all. But there is no general recognition of the extent of similar suffering. Many of the million or so first degree relatives of people with schizophrenia in this country can tell equally agonizing stories.

The tide set rolling by anti-psychiatry, gossippers, together with "rights" campaigners, long ago passed the point at which net benefit turned to net damage.

There must be few patients left who are needlessly and unwillingly "incarcerated", and for every one of these there must be thousands needing proper care and not getting it. Tens of thousands more are about to be added to those whose "community care" is, at the best, a back bedroom in the flat of an ailing widowed mother.

This sort of privatization helps balance budgets. But it would cost the Exchequer or the rates nothing if psychiatrists and administrators - except for clear reasons against - were to recognize relatives as the primary care agents - which they frequently are, and collaborate with them instead of, so often, treating them as non-persons.

School where Protestant and Catholic children learn to live in harmony  
Breaching the Belfast wall

At an end-of-term barbecue on the shores of Belfast Lough, the principal of the province's first fully-integrated secondary school for Roman Catholics and Protestants could hardly conceal her delight that she was still enrolling pupils for the next school year.

For when Lagan College opened two years ago there were only 28 pupils whose families had taken the risk of supporting a unique venture in particularly unsuitable terrain. Many armchair dreamers had wished to challenge the sectarian nature of Northern Ireland's education system, but here was a charitable trust actually doing something concrete, even though it was the year of the 11-block hunger strike. One year later the idea had taken root: there were 90 pupils on the register, and in September 72 new boys and girls will enter the school's still temporary home in south Belfast.

Perhaps even more will enroll during the two-month summer holiday and show that despite the building of a brick wall in north Belfast as a permanent barrier between Roman Catholics and Protestants, there are middle and working-class parents of both faiths prepared for their children to learn together about their separate cultures and traditions. Only one child has withdrawn from the school and no parent has so far requested that his or her child should no longer attend shared religious education classes.

A crucial moment has however, been reached; the school is about to apply to the Northern Ireland Office for government aid. Until now Lagan has survived on generous grants - and response to public appeals, but it now believes it will be able to meet the government

requirement for a minimum of 300 pupils to show that there is a demand for its type of education. Government policy is to encourage integrated education in the province and teachers and parents hope the liberally-minded Nicholas Scott, Under-Secretary of State, responsible for education in the province will favour their application. If he does not, Northern Ireland will hear loud protests.

In her first term, the principal, Mrs Sheila Greenfield, had 300 applicants for staff jobs. Three full-time teachers engaged for next term have taken a drop in salary to join, and two part-timers have given up full employment to participate in the experiment.

The only sign - apart from Christian names, which in the province are often the best clue to a person's religion - that the school is inter-denominational occurs at assembly, when half the children make the sign of the Cross. Even at times of sectarian tension on the streets there have been no clashes on the school premises, though the teachers are adamant that the differences between the two creeds are not ignored.

A mixture of Irish and British Commonwealth history, is taught - the battle of the Boyne as well as the 1916 rising. "It is probably the most exciting and taxing teaching job in Northern Ireland," because it sharpens everyone's historical awareness, the history teacher said. "The children are always prepared to listen to what the other side have been told, and then they bounce ideas around in class."

The Irish language is now on the curriculum; literature is a blend of the best from both countries. School sport includes both soccer and Gaelic football.

With its equal representation of Roman Catholic and Protestant among pupils, teachers and governors, Lagan is unique. But as Mrs Greenfield explained: "These children have to spend the rest of their lives together in Northern Ireland, so they need to spend their schooldays learning to respect and trust each other. No wonder mistrust and fears build up if they are segregated. It is ridiculous because higher education in the province is not segregated."

Paddy O'Hanlon's 13-year-old son Cormac left a Roman Catholic boys' grammar school to go to Lagan and quickly met his best friend - a Protestant from East Belfast. Cormac was at first nervous and unsure, but now the two are inseparable, meeting regularly during school holidays and often at weekends, when they telephone each other and go to Belfast to the cinema. Cormac's mother said: "We sent him to Lagan because he started to use slang about Protestants in the home, and we didn't want it to continue. Now Protestants are just other boys, though he still has problems going to school in case youths from a Catholic secondary school in the neighbourhood see his blazer and tie and start to mock him. But we're delighted with how he is developing into such a more easy-going boy."

Though Lagan has so far triumphantly confounded the cynics, there are problems, and its future is uncertain. It is anxiously awaiting report from the inspector of education on its standards, and it is constantly aware of the danger of becoming a haven for middle-class children who have failed the 11 plus. It is slowly attracting pupils from the working class but Lagan dearly wants also to recruit more from the

impooverished areas as well as increased numbers of girls and children who have been offered grammar school places.

Protestant chaplains visit the school, though no Roman Catholic priest has officially done so and the local Catholic bishop, Dr Cahal Daly, without naming Lagan, appeared critical when he said it was a pity people opted out of a well-organized system of religious education into which the church had put vast resources. Many people in the province had expected a more positive approach but Dr Daly has big problems to confront. A convinced ecumenist, he is having to move carefully as it is known that some of the conservative elements in the diocese are resisting his ideas.

But the most urgent problem is finance. Latest enrolments, however, have convinced the governors that when it reaches a five-form entry Lagan will have achieved the target of 300 pupils. Fees at £625 a year with a sliding scale according to parental income have helped towards that target, but with no assistance for books, school meals or transport, the staff admit it has been a struggle.

Government policy is to encourage integration in a province where 90 per cent of secondary education is segregated, but at a time of dwindling school rolls and schools closing through fear it might be embarrassed to be seen offering a grant to Lagan. But after all the talking from ministers about the two traditions learning to respect each other and the distinctive "witness" of the Northern Ireland team at Stormont, many believe if Lagan meets the criteria, its case will be almost irresistible.

Richard Ford

FIRST PERSON

It is wet and raining and I am gazing out of the window at the rain teeming down in front of the rather severe facade of Brompton Library opposite. My state of mind is close to utter boredom. I've tried reading *The Times* to alleviate the boredom because I know it's all in the mind, but after an hour I am beyond it and need to do something other than wait for the odd phone call to invade the silence.

The problem may be that I work for four hard-working men, often out of the office, and I am simply the temporary typist from the agency who is supposed to recharge the coffee percolator, answer the door and the telephone and type letters beautifully. On the phone I am to give the impression of a vastly efficient, well run office, but what actually happens is that the phone rings so rarely that I have forgotten which temp job it is and I answer with delay and vagueness. The typing work comes in occasionally,

Travails and travels of an office gypsy

but is always needed urgently, so that instead of calmly typing it, panic sets in.

Temp jobs keep the adrenalin going. The state of fear on Monday mornings when being instructed on the job, the names of the people in the office, the machinery, where the "ladies" is - not to mention trying to find the office - all tend to be overwhelming, but it does keep one in a state of challenge.

Usually, on Day One you manage to get going with the typewriter, telephones etc., and you put out tentative feelers as to who might be friends. In typing pools, people tend to be pretty friendly on Day One, because they are often manned by "losers" - people who simply pound away, supervised by some inferior dragon, simply because they have to earn the money and have not got the qualifications to do anything else. In other places, if they are English, it takes about three days to have any real communication. There are sometimes appalling

failures. One day the first person I met was a worried-looking ex-army/naval man who "managed" the office. There had obviously been some "temp" trouble (i.e. an unsatisfactory previous one) and then I saw the electronic typewriter, which I had not a clue how to work. He felt I could easily manage it and I was game to have a go, but the office was a tiny sort of corridor shared by three other women and a pekingese. A couple of hours later, a raging headache and a wastepaper basket full of my efforts on the unconquered electronic machine, I decided to give up.

Another disaster was in a tax accountant's. True to form, there were elegant offices upstairs - and downstairs - were: poky, subterranean areas where the clients rarely came. The job was audio typing and I could not understand most of what the man said - and when I could it simply was not English. I just bashed out as much as I could, roughly, realizing the hopelessness.

Jean Southon

THE TIMES  
Tomorrow

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News from home and abroad: Values on diets and exercise: Video cassettes of the month: Drink on New Zealand wines: preview of new Cyrano de Bergerac play: Critics' Choice of what's on in the cinema and on the stage: and a selective guide to the coming week's events



David Watt  
Labour and  
other Foot

150



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## JUST DESERTS

The Parliamentary spectacle is over, the House of Commons moves on with its mundane agenda, and the issue of capital punishment is locked away not just for the life of this Parliament but for the foreseeable future. Who can conjure the bloody horror that would make the House think again after so one-sided a debate as Wednesday's, when the eyes so disappointed both in the vigour and the calibre of their contributions?

What will not quietly die are the emotions which gave rise to the debate itself. In the nation there is still an eddy of those feelings stirred during past weeks as - all too rarely - we turned collectively to recall the victims of murder. Parliamentary motions and lobby passages cannot assuage society's conviction that certain homicides are inadequately punished. Mr Edward Heath, as ever on the grand occasion a notable speaker, said it was not for the Commons to decide retribution. Yet the House must channel and filter society's expectation of condign punishment for that class of homicide, thankfully the minor class, including child, terrorist and police murders. Ignore that expectation and a nasty sore grows beneath the social skin, fit to erupt.

Members and ministers must respond to this expectation not as delegates from untutored public opinion, but as free-thinking representatives, with a bounden duty to look to the bonds which hold us together in just society. Mr Hattersley may sneer at "primitive instincts", but among these we must number love, and faith, as well as a pristine sense of justice that extends from the process of

conviction to that of punishment. The Government cannot let the matter drop; Mr Brittan cannot merely hope an embarrassment will go away. There needs now to be an attempt to round off the debate by action, on two fronts. On one side, we require a set of assurances such as Mr Brittan (in one of his happier moments on Wednesday) began to give. He indicated that murderers of police officers must serve 20 years, as a minimum. He might have added without offending his fellow professionals: whatever personal circumstances might be elevated by lawyers in courtrooms. Such a tariff of compulsory minima might be extended through the category of "capital" homicides. The Home Secretary might provide periodic statements of how many capital "lifers" have been released. The answer should be none, before their dotage. If Mr Brittan and his successors can continuously affirm that no murderer in the capital category will walk the streets before his advanced old age, then the public's expectation of retributive punishment may be satisfied.

The other side has to do with the penal regime. Let it roundly be said there is no such thing as prisoner's rights - such can safely be left to those ubiquitous prison reformers for whom the victim is mysteriously transmogrified into the very prisoner convicted of murder, robbery or rape. However, there is such a thing as the state's obligations towards those in its custody. That obligation - minimum, certifiable standards of accommodation and discipline - is patently not met by the present

array of over-crowded jails, Victorian sanitation and arbitrary lock-ups. There is nothing wrong with slopping out or any of the other personal indignities so vividly described by penal reformers - provided these are willed by the state as part of the punishment. What is wrong is that present overcrowding punishes inadvertently, hurting the lesser criminal along with the greater without discrimination. There is a case - now even stronger - for the consistent application of an uncomfortable regime to Category A prisoners: who needs shed a tear at their confinement in solitary for long periods. For a strictly defined class of convict, rehabilitation is now a loose idea of the 1960s; the hour is for retribution.

But such a harsh-sounding policy can only go hand in hand with the general penal reform so desperately needed. Here is Mr Brittan's opportunity. The agenda is not new; it has been set out by his prison service officials and inspectors and by a host of interest groups. It involves dramatic action to reduce the prison population to manageable levels, which means the release, by executive order, of large numbers of non-violent offenders on short sentences approaching the end of their term. It means, over a longer run, a hard fight by the Home Office and other departments for money for non-custodial sentences for those convicted of property and "social" crimes, such as the non-payment of maintenance, vagrancy and drunkenness. Until the prisons are internally re-ordered in this way, they cannot accomplish their task of properly punishing those who have committed the ultimate offence.

## TOBORROW AND TOBORROW AND TOBORROW

Brazil must reach an agreement with the International Monetary Fund today if it is to repay a \$400m. bridging loan from the Bank for International Settlements. The agreement is regarded as critical to confidence in the international financial system and has rightly been the focus of attention in recent weeks. But the debt crisis will not go away because a few harassed Brazilian officials sign one piece of paper. The problems and the solutions - both for Brazil and the rest of Latin America - are much more difficult.

The main cause of the debt crisis is a borrowing spree which began in the mid-1970s. Aware that external finance was readily available from foreign banks, Latin American nations ran very large deficits on their government budgets and international payments. The financial imbalances sometimes reached preposterous dimensions. Brazil's public sector deficit was about 17 per cent of gross domestic product last year, a remarkable figure by any standards but particularly so for a country without a sophisticated capital market able to absorb heavy issues of government debt.

In retrospect, it is obvious that the situation was unsustainable. The foreign debts of major Latin American nations were increasing much more quickly than their output, exports or tax revenues. At some point flows of new credit would be cut off and banks would seek a gesture, even if only token in kind, towards repayment. This moment arrived in the middle of last year, as the severity of Mexico's payments strains became apparent and bankers took fright about their loans to countries in similar circumstances.

The required economic adjustments were traumatic. Countries which had become accustomed to current account deficits equivalent to 5 to 10 per cent of gross domestic product had to take steps to eliminate them within a

one- or two-year period. In every case the implied shift of resources from domestic consumption to improving the external balance was drastic. It necessarily involved large falls in output and living standards. The IMF was called in by country after country to act as the foreign scapegoat for economic turmoil which policy-makers knew was of local origin and quite unavoidable.

It should be recognized - and it has not been adequately recognized in much public discussion - that the major Latin American debtor nations have already gone a long way to straightening out their international accounts. Moreover, they have done so by subjecting themselves to deflations of a harshness and rigour almost unimaginable in advanced industrial societies. Argentina is often singled out as a hopeless case, but it is likely to have a trade surplus this year of over \$3,000m., a striking improvement when compared with a deficit in 1980 of \$2,400m. The better payments performance stems mainly from a big drop in imports, made possible by a 30 per cent decline in living standards.

In fact, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Chile and Venezuela all now have significant trade surpluses. They have achieved these surpluses despite depressed prices and weak markets for their major export products. But they still have current account deficits and, as a result, are unable to meet their financial obligations as these fall due. The explanation for the persistence of the current account deficits is that interest payments on outstanding debt exceed the trade surpluses. The Latin American nations' financial behaviour has improved, but the inheritance of past misdeeds burdens them today and will continue to burden them for many years to come.

However, they are not to blame for one important aspect

of the present problem. Interest payments are particularly troublesome because dollar interest rates are very high in real terms. There can be no doubt that the massive US Federal deficit is largely responsible for dollar interest rates being at such levels. The Federal deficit is generating anxiety among potential investors in American government debt because it may eventually have to be financed by printing money. That would cause an acceleration of inflation and effectively debase the debt now being issued. Investors have to be compensated for these risks by a highly positive real interest rate. But this interest rate, plus a further margin to reflect their even greater unreliability, has also to be paid by Latin American governments on their borrowings.

The ultimate solution for the international debt crisis must therefore be a return to fiscal responsibility both in Latin America and in the United States. The 1970s and early 1980s saw an almost universal abandonment of the "old time religion" of sound money and balanced budgets, with financial permissiveness at its most extreme in the New World. The IMF, the BIS and central banks in the major industrial nations have the unenviable task of trying to keep loans flowing to governments which, on the past record, do not deserve them. This task will be easier if political leaders in the offending countries show that they intend to behave with more prudence and restraint in future. In Latin America there are some hopeful signs that a new sense of reality is emerging; in the United States there are distressingly few. As long as Congress and the Administration do nothing to restore budgetary balance, central bankers will continue their travels from one Latin American capital to another trying to patch up agreements about debts which should never have been incurred.

## Solicitors' charges

From the President of The Law Society

Sir, As the newly-elected President of The Law Society referred to in Alastair Brett's article, "No longer a law unto themselves", in your July 9 issue, may I respond to the challenge he throws down as to whether The Law Society is to be "little more than the custodian of restrictive legal practices... or the powerhouse of a reforming movement dedicated to streamlining a ponderous legal system already bowed under the increasing burden of legal costs?"

If Mr Brett had read the addresses of both my immediate predecessors to the annual conferences of The Law Society in 1981 and 1982, and as a solicitor he should have, he would not be in any doubt that The Law Society has been pressing for years and will continue to press for reforms in procedure designed to reduce the cost of litigation. But The Law Society is powerless on its own to bring these reforms about. Government action, so far lacking, is essential.

Mr Brett alleges overcharging by some solicitors in non-contentious

matters, particularly commercial, and he accuses The Law Society of secrecy and hypocrisy in relation to its booklet, *The Expense of Time*. There is no secret about the booklet. There is a management tool designed to help solicitors to calculate the cost to them of doing their work, taking into account all their office overheads, which have been no less subject to inflation than any other enterprise. It does not deal with the charging rate, as Mr Brett suggests, so that his accusation of hypocrisy is misdirected.

Obviously the ultimate charge to the client must exceed the cost to the solicitor of providing the service, but such is price competition today that any solicitor who sought to make an excessive profit would find his clients had gone elsewhere.

If market forces are allowed to operate freely, then solicitors who do not offer the services their clients require at a price they are prepared to pay will go to the wall. But if Mr Brett wants intervention to force down all prices to the levels fixed for criminal legal aid then he risks the disintegration of an independent private profession and the destruction of the broad range of services

for both rich and poor which solicitors at present provide. Is that what the public really wants?

Yours faithfully,  
C. R. HEWETSON, President,  
The Law Society,  
The Law Society's Hall,  
113 Chancery Lane, WC2.

## Hyper-inflation

From Mr J. E. A. Troup

Sir, The Value Added Tax Bill ordered to be printed April 14, 1983, was published by HMSO at £3.15. A consolidation Bill, it lapsed when the election was called.

The Value Added Tax Bill ordered to be printed June 28, 1983 (identical in all respects other than the date and the HMSO reference number), has been published by HMSO at £3.25, an annualised rate of inflation in excess of 450 per cent. I remain, Sir, your impoverished servant.

J. E. A. TROUP,  
3 Sandycroft Road,  
St Margaret's,  
Twickenham, Middlesex,  
July 7.

## Fair dealing with ratepayers

From the Leader of Westminster City Council

Sir, Far from berating the Government for undermining the foundations of local democracy by imposing spending limits on local authorities, Margaret Hodge, Chairman of the Association of London Authorities (July 9), should be applauding an action designed to reinforce the first rule of democracy - responsibility and accountability to the electorate.

Any share-out of Government funds is bound to leave some people feeling disgruntled. But if we believe in democracy, as Margaret Hodge says she does, then the nationally elected Government must be allowed to define the overall pattern of expenditure.

If some local authorities feel their share is wrong, they have perfectly legitimate constitutional ways of pressing their case. But many authorities have deliberately flouted Government guidelines for purely political propaganda motives. The result is financial hardship, not for the politicians who took the "brave" decision to flout the law, but for the ratepayers they are supposed to serve.

I would make a plea for all elected local authority members to forget cheap politics and get back to what local government is really about - giving the best possible service in return for the money the ratepayers can afford to provide.

Yours faithfully,  
SHIRLEY PORTER, Leader,  
Westminster City Council,  
PO Box 240,  
Westminster City Hall,  
Victoria Street, SW1,  
July 11.

## Effects of NHS cuts on staff morale

From the Chairman of the Association of Health Service Treasurers

Sir, There is one aspect not covered in your excellent leader (July 9) on cuts demanded by the Government in NHS spending. This is the effect on the morale and commitment of staff working in the service, particularly top managers.

The NHS has been continually criticised in recent years for being inefficient, despite being able to demonstrate a significant rise in productivity in terms of patients treated and a record of consistently keeping within the cash limits imposed on it which is second to none in the public sector.

Those responsible for top management in the NHS, having just emerged from their second reorganisation of the service in eight years and even now facing a further management inquiry headed by Mr Roy Griffiths, of Sainsbury's, are making determined efforts to be more accountable, to get better value for money and take savings to allow some improvement in services despite declining financial resources for many authorities.

This involves, as your leader suggests, the need to plan ahead, for difficult and sensitive choices are inevitable between new services needed to meet new needs and cherished existing facilities. For well over a year now health authorities have been pressing ministers for some stability to planning in the NHS by giving forward resource assumptions.

The difficulties of doing this in the current economic climate were well appreciated but, to his credit, Mr Fowler did issue forward resource guidelines to health authorities on June 30 of an average of 1/2 per cent a year for the next 10 years in real terms over and above inflation and any savings that can be generated by the service itself. Despite the heavy qualifications that surrounded them, these guidelines were seen as some backing for the Government's assertion of its commitment to the NHS and as a

genuine attempt to bring some reassurance about the future.

Only one week later comes a cut in health authority budgets for hospital and community health services for the current year of £95m, to compensate apparently for likely overspending on family practitioner services and social security benefits - neither any responsibility of health authorities nor subject to the cash limit controls that they are.

However this may be rationalised by the Chancellor or Mr Fowler, presumably because these services all form part of the same arbitrarily defined public-spending programme, it will be seen in no way as good sense or good management by those desperately trying to respond to the criticisms and challenges facing the NHS suddenly to slam agreed spending plans into reverse four months into the financial year. This completely negates any reassurances about the future recently given.

In particular, it will make even more difficult the task of top management in its drive to redeploy resources to meet changing needs. This involves persuading all who work in the NHS, particularly the clinicians, that existing services have to be reviewed and difficult choices made about priorities.

They are much less likely to respond if hard-won savings run the risk of being snatched away overnight to compensate for what they will see, not necessarily correctly, as lack of control elsewhere or to allow what may be largely cosmetic treatment to be applied to public-spending figures for the benefit of the financial markets. They are, quite rightly, more interested in treating patients.

Yours faithfully,  
D. J. HUCKLESBY, Chairman,  
The Association of Health Service Treasurers,  
Bristol and Weston Health Authority,  
10 Marlborough Street,  
Bristol,  
July 9.

## Runaway spending

From Mr Gordon L. Lee

Sir, Your editorial ("The runaway train", July 12) rightly absolves the Chancellor from blame for the present public spending problems. These, of course, do seem odd, coming so soon after the Tory manifesto's repeated claims that public expenditure was now under "firm control". But it is too facile to blame the problems entirely on last autumn's efforts to avoid under-spending and the resolute certainty does not lie in further across-the-board cuts in the spending departments' programmes.

What seems to have run away at the moment is current spending. Britain's economic and social infrastructure, on which our prosperity and economic recovery depend, has declined because capital investment has been cut. New public construction spending on housing, roads, schools, hospitals and public utilities has almost halved in the past 10 years and even private construction is only at three quarters of the 1973 level. Yet general Government expenditure now accounts for 47 per cent of GDP, compared with 42 per cent in 1973. Thus the disastrous decline in public-sector investment is not due to overall economies in public spending but to a false sense of priorities.

The Chancellor has already admitted that early tax cuts must be ruled out now. It is our industry's case that a gentle recovery programme with an emphasis on greater capital investment in the national infrastructure will result in earlier and greater economic growth without deleterious effects on inflation and borrowing, provided that the temptation is resisted to compensate

for lack of control in current public spending by short-term panic cuts in capital investment. And to the Government's credit the Chancellor specifically exempted local authority capital spending from last week's cuts. Why did he not exempt central Government capital investment at the same time?

Yours faithfully,  
GORDON L. LEE, Chairman,  
British Aggregate Construction Materials Association (BACMA),  
25 Lower Belgrave Street, SW1,  
July 13.

From Mr A. Sandison

Sir, The Government is seeking to save another £500m from public expenditure.

The Home Office's plan to set up a data-protection register deserves critical re-examination. Careful appraisal of the plans shows that, at present envisaged, the register will be too vast to be of any assistance either to the registrar in supervising the use of personal data bases, or to the private individuals wanting to know where information about them might be held.

It is not difficult to envisage alternative techniques of control and supervision which could operate efficiently without any register and thereby save Government departments implementation costs of £5.5m, local authorities and public bodies a further £10m, with annual running costs around £14m.

These estimates in the Data Protection Bill ignore the costs to commerce and industry in time and fees: since these are totally unproductive they can only be inflationary.

Yours faithfully,  
A. SANDISON,  
Ridgemoor Gardens, WC1,  
July 9.

## Orchid survival

From Mr R.S.R. Fitter

Sir, Butcher (July 9) is under several misapprehensions about the survival of certain rare orchids in the Thames valley and the Chilterns. Botanists who are connected with their protection certainly do not accept that they are doomed. If some of their habitat can be maintained and people can be persuaded not to pick them, trample on them or dig them up (all have happened recently), these orchids can not only survive but increase.

Nobody is suggesting the "segregation of substantial areas of useful land from the influence of farming and other human activities". This is Mr Butcher's own skittle. All the really rare orchids in this area (i.e. the ones specially protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act) are already either on small nature reserves owned or managed by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists' Trust or are on publicly-owned amenity land.

What the trust is seeking to do is to prevent accidental or deliberate vandalism to plants already accorded the highest degree of protection our law allows, on land already set aside for their protection.

Yours etc,  
RICHARD FITTER,  
Drifts,  
Chisnor Hill,  
Oxfordshire,  
July 10.

## All-ability success

From Mr Martin Taylor

Sir, I suppose that in 1973, when my present school was still a 460-place selective boys' school, I might have predicted, like Roger Scruton in his article on "Standards in English schools" (July 5), less good exam results as the price of becoming an all-ability school. However, I would have been wrong. In that year a new mixed unselective school was added

to us and we became an all-ability school, now of about 1,200.

In 1973 the pupils secured 311 O-level A-C grades or CSE 1s; in 1982, 637. In 1973, 42 A-level passes; in 1982, 124. In September our first pupils went up to Cambridge.

We are in no sense a privileged school. We compete for our entry with two old-established grammar schools; our catchment area has its share of deprivation and we have suffered our share of education cuts.

To me, our experience has been totally convincing. The challenge of teaching across the ability range and the vision of the all-ability school have produced a quality of teacher and of teaching that frequently amazes and delights me. My experience is the reverse of the so-called facts that Roger Scruton regards as self-evident.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN TAYLOR,  
Deputy Headmaster,  
Geoffrey Chaucer School,  
Spring Lane,  
Canterbury,  
Kent,  
July 6.

## Matters of conscience

From Lord Campbell of Eskan

Sir, May an old man reflect what encouragement he derives from the fact that when members can vote according to conscience and common sense when they can listen to the weight of evidence and argument rather than to the party whip, the House of Commons, in a matter of the utmost complexity, reaches a wise, civilised and responsible conclusion. (In other words, I happen to agree with it.)

Now how about tackling the economy, unemployment, overseas aid, delinquency...

The man must be mad!

Yours faithfully,  
CAMPBELL OF ESKAN,  
15 Eaton Square, SW1,  
July 14.

## 'Financial Times' dispute

From Mr W. T. Booroff

Sir, Disputes in national newspapers are often bedevilled by a lack of understanding, either on the part of the management, or of commentators in other newspapers, as to the real causes which lie at the root of the matter. The dispute at the *Financial Times* is a good example of this sad state of affairs, a prime example of which occurred in the comment in your leader column and the bizarre report on page 2 of the same issue, dated July 14.

The leader comment has a continuing implication that the NGA members concerned are defying the union leadership. This is untrue. The fact is that precisely the opposite position is the case. The NGA members concerned have followed constitutional procedures throughout three years of frustrating negotiations and their patience and restraint is recognised and appreciated at all levels of the NGA. The current position is one in which the members of the NGA leadership are united in their opposition to a management who are responsible for the present state of affairs by their conduct throughout this negotiation. A detailed account of the position was set out in the General Secretary's letter which appeared in another newspaper recently.

My purpose, however, is not merely to refute the extraordinary inaccuracies that seem to persist in this case, nor even to comment on the provocative contribution from Barry Clement on page 2. I have also to point to the willful misunderstanding which affects newspaper commentators when talking of disputes in Fleet Street.

Whilst it is true that the contents of national newspapers must appear on the day in question, if they are to have any relevance and that this factor makes for vulnerability, it should be remembered that this position is far from being a unique one and ought not to result in the disputes which erupt from time to time in Fleet Street. Neither those employed, nor their trade unions encourage dispute action, for all recognize that this is contrary to the interests of both the newspaper and those who are employed therein.

The fact is, however, that many managements count on the loyalty of their workforce when trying to impose their wishes and it is a failure on the part of some newspaper managements to recognize the fact that the new understanding for the production of a particular product, in the same fashion as managements elsewhere in industry, that gives rise to dispute situations. When one adds to this the fierce rivalry between national newspapers then the recipe for disputes is complete.

The standard response of Fleet Street commentators, therefore, to the unions or their members are to blame for these disputes does not stand examination and is certainly not the case at the *Financial Times*. The dispute there is one concerning a disagreement between the management and the NGA as to the wages, hours and conditions upon which its members should be employed. A recognition of that factor is the essential first step towards resolving this regrettable dispute.

Yours faithfully,  
W. T. BOOROFF,  
London Regional Secretary,  
International Graphical Association (1982),  
12-14 Theobalds Road, WC1,  
July 14.

## New Labour daily

From Mr George Gardiner, MP for Reigate (Conservative)

Sir, Lord McCarthy states in his letter (June 9) that the new daily newspaper proposed for the Labour movement would break even by making "the most effective use of the latest technology."

To avoid the charge of hypocrisy, should not the Labour movement throw its full weight against trade union resistance to modern printing methods throughout Fleet Street?

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE GARDINER,  
House of Commons,  
July 12.

## Feeding ourselves

From Mr Peter Clarke

Sir, Mr Hills (July 5) is right. Cultivation of allotments by unemployed people would be beneficial.

In 1938 the Society of Friends (the Quakers) started the "seeds scheme" with just this objective. At its peak 100,000 unemployed were being helped in almost every part of the United Kingdom. The scheme was continued until 1951, though from 1940 aiding a different group of disadvantaged people, when it was taken over by the National Allotments and Gardens Society.

The seeds scheme provided cheap seeds, seed potatoes, tools and fertilisers. Thanks to the Friends' initiative allotment societies were formed, allotments were brought into cultivation and rent reductions or subsidies were achieved to bring them within the means of the unemployed. It was not "charity"; the men paid for their supplies and their rent by weekly instalments.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER CLARKE,  
264 Alexandra Park Road, N22,  
July 7.

## Cause and effect?

From Mrs Veronica Metcalfe

Sir, Has your recent correspondence from numerous readers, "On a clear day", instigated our weather?

Yours faithfully,  
VERONICA METCALFE,  
The Coach House,  
West End, Kingham,  
Oxfordshire,  
July 13.



## Investment and Finance

City Editor  
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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### STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 588.2 up 11.2  
FT All Shares Datastream's estimate was 436.82 up 1.3  
Dow Jones Industrial Average 18,640  
NYSE Composite 94.08 up 0.48  
New York Dow Jones Average (latest) 1206.33 up 8.51  
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index 8884.98 up 1.38  
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index 1064.73 up 38.18  
Amsterdam Index 145.1 up 1.3  
Frankfurt Commerzbank Index 982.40 up 6.6  
Sydney A O Index 623.1 up 1.3  
Brussels General Index 128.38 down 0.21  
Paris C A C Index 125.5  
Zurich S K A Index 286.4 down 1.6

### CURRENCIES

**LONDON CLOSE**  
Sterling \$1.5295 up 5pts  
Index 84.7 down 0.2  
DM 3.4650 down 0.01  
FF 11.8450 down 0.045  
Yen 367.50 up 0.5  
**DOLLAR**  
Index 125.8 down 0.2  
DM 2.5760 down 100pts  
**NEW YORK LATEST**  
Sterling \$1.5285  
ECU 0.574191  
S&P 20 895.099

### INTEREST RATES

**Domestic rates**  
Base rates 9%  
Finance houses base rate 10%  
Discount market loans week fixed 9-8%  
3 month interbank 9%  
Euro-currency rates  
3 months dollar 10 1/4%  
3 months DM 5 1/2%  
3 month FF 14 1/4%  
US bank prime rate 10 1/2%  
Fed funds 9%  
Treasury long bond 91 29 / 32 - 91 11 / 32  
**ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling**  
Export Finance Scheme IV  
Average reference rate for interest period June 8 to July 5, 1983 inclusive: 9.878 per cent.

### GOLD

**London fixed (per ounce):** am \$424.40; pm \$426.25; close \$426.00  
**New York close \$426.25**  
**Krugers (per coin):** \$438.05  
**Sovereigns (new):** \$99.50-100.50  
excludes VAT.

### TODAY

**Interns** - Daily Mail and General Trust, Yeoman Investment Trust.  
**Finals** - Caledonian Offshore, Forsyth Barronwood Brewery, Harbours Malaysia Plc, Harbours, Highgate Optical and Industrial (amd), Kinta Kelas Rubber Estates.  
**Economic statistics** - Tax and price index (June); Retail prices index (June); Usable steel production (June).

### ANNUAL MEETINGS

**Alship Industries**, Conference Room, Ronaldswood Airport, Isle of Man (noon).  
**Capital & Counties**, St Andrews House, 40 Broadway, SW1 (noon).  
**John Beales Associated Companies**, Boulevard Works, Radford Boulevard, Nottingham (noon).  
**Rowlinson**, London House, London Road South, Poynton, Stockport (noon).

### NOTEBOOK

Pretax profits rose by 16 per cent to £122m in the year ending March 31 at Thorn EMI after strong growth in British video and electrical sales. He shares rose by 37p to 549p.  
There was relief in London markets at the failure of the proposed takeover bid for American broking firm Alexander & Alexander Services by Britain's Sedgwick Group. Sedgwick refuses to discuss the deal, while Alexander & Alexander will not say why talks broke down.

UNIT TRUSTS: June Unit trusts sales totalled £185.6m, a high figure. Already sales for the first half of 1983 equal those for the whole of 1982 which was a record year. Nine funds were launched in June.  
EEC CALL: The European Commission yesterday called for a worldwide campaign to fight the booming trade in counterfeit manufactured goods.

British rates should not follow US, says CBI chief

# Volcker tightens monetary policy and says interest rates could rise

By Bailey Morris, Washington, and Edward Townsend

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, said yesterday that monetary policy had been tightened in recent weeks and that this could lead to a short-term rise in interest rates. He would not be a big rise.

He emphasized that the Fed had done nothing at its policy meeting this week to alter dramatically the present strong economic recovery.

He told the senate banking committee: "We've been slightly less accommodating in recent weeks to large growth in the money supply than we were earlier, but we've done nothing drastic, nothing inconsistent with continued growth."

In Britain, business leaders told the Government that if US interest rates were increased Britain did not have to follow suit.

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said that "with our surplus in current account and given our fiscal and monetary balance we should loosen our traditional link with US rates and not follow their trend completely".

Mr Volcker's statement yesterday came in testimony to the Senate banking committee, which is examining his nomination to a second four-year term as Fed chairman.

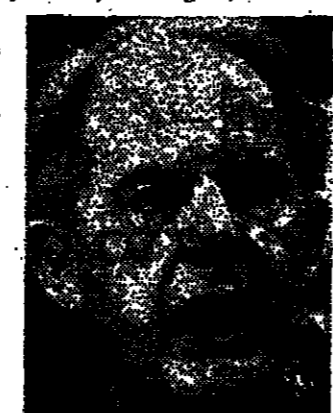
Because of the concern over the direction of US monetary policy, Mr Jake Garn, the Republican chairman of the committee, took the unusual step of postponing a vote on Mr Volcker's re-nomination until next week.

Then, Mr Volcker will be reporting to Congress on the Fed's goals for the economy and the conduct of monetary policy in the next 12 months.

Mr Volcker surprised committee members by stating that he did not feel a commitment to serve out his full four-year term if re-nominated as chairman.

There has been widespread speculation that President Reagan had extracted an informal promise from Mr Volcker that as a condition of re-nominating him, Mr Volcker would step down in 1985 after the presidential reelection.

Mr Volcker, in his testimony, said that the biggest dangers to the recovery were the projected

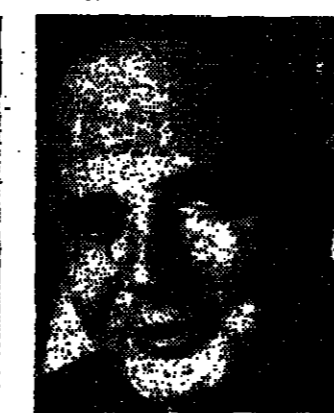


Beckett: "Loosen traditional US link"

large federal deficits, which had put the US economy on a potential collision course which could abort the recovery in a year's time.

Describe the Fed as in a "Catch 22 situation", Mr Volcker said that the faster the recovery proceeded, the closer loomed the "day of conflict" with the putting upward pressure on interest rates.

The job of the Fed during this critical stage in the recovery was to look ahead and take steps to



Volcker: re-nomination postponed by Senate

ensure that the moderate, even conservative, attitudes - spawned by progress in reducing inflation - remained this year and in the years ahead.

He said that this was the reason the Fed had moved in recent weeks to rein in a growth in the turbulent US money supply that had provoked concern in financial markets of a possible resurgence in inflation.

Mr Volcker declined to specify whether the Fed had

decided to raise the discount rate on money loaned to banks.

Fears of a new rise in the discount rate, which has stood at 8.5 per cent for many months, have prompted a rise in interest rates in recent weeks and led to speculation on financial markets of a dramatic rise in rates in the months ahead.

Mr Garn, deferring the re-nomination vote, told Mr Volcker: "Some members of this committee may not want to vote on your confirmation until they have had a chance to discuss with you the current money policy objectives as outlined at your open market committee meeting this week."

During an intense session of questioning, several committee members expressed fears that the next four years could produce an even worse recession.

One influential member of the banking committee told Mr Volcker that conditions were such that he could become "the Herbert Hoover of monetary policy" during his second term, no matter how ably he steered the Fed.

## Trafalgar threatens to drop P&O bid

By Wayne Lintott

Mr Nigel Brookes, who said earlier this week that his Trafalgar House property-shipping group would pursue its attempt to take over P&O, said yesterday that he would not go ahead if P&O merged with any part of Town and City Properties.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Brookes said he would not proceed if Mr Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of Town and City and recently made deputy chairman of P&O, were to merge P&O chairman and merge Town and City's services division with the shipping company.

He said: "It is not something we would like to see. We certainly would not want it or P&O with it for that matter."

A scenario was floated last week which suggests Mr Sterling being appointed chairman and P&O taking over his services division, worth around £100m. This would bring Mr Sterling's management team to P&O.

Mr Brookes added: "If that projected scenario were just a

financial deal, part of P&O's defensive tactics, then we would obviously try to stop it."

In the meantime, Trafalgar would pursue "with vigour" its representations to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in an attempt to get clearance for the £290m takeover offer.

Mr Oliver Brooks, managing director of P&O, was not prepared to discuss the boardroom power struggle except to say that he would be occupied on a full-time basis, until the end of September, with the company's Monopolies presentation.

Last month, P&O chairman Lord Inchcape, Sir Brockle and two other executive directors were due to retire. Those four positions will have to be filled.

Both Mr Brookes and Mr Brooks agreed that it was unlikely that the Monopolies review would be completed within the specified six-months. Both agreed it would take at least nine months.

Brookes interview, page 17

## Big surge in private borrowing

By Frances Williams  
Economies Correspondent

A big jump in bank lending to the private sector was the main factor behind the surge in money growth last month.

The Bank of England said yesterday that new bank lending totalled £1,570m in the four weeks to mid-June, the highest level since last October, and substantially above the £1,088m in May. The Bank confirmed that all three main money measures are running well above the top of the Government's target band.

In one sense the rise in bank lending is a good sign because

| MONEY GROWTH (percentage)                             |      |             |
|---|------|-------------|
|   | June | annual rate |
| M1  | 1.7  | 17.6        |
| M2  | 1.7  | 15.8        |
| M3  | 1.1  | 17.9        |
| Target band Feb 83 to April 84 at annual rate 7 to 11 |      |             |
| Source: Bank of England                               |      |             |

it reflects industrial recovery. It suggests that companies are borrowing more to finance higher production by rebuilding stocks severely depleted last autumn and winter.

But it also makes the authorities' task of monetary control more difficult, especially when government borrowing is also running on the high side. Last week's announcement of public spending cuts by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, will not be enough to keep money growth in check, City analysts believe.

The public sector contribution to money growth last month was only £100m, because central government borrowing of £1,286m was offset by a respectable £846m of debt sales - gilts and national savings - and by repayment of bank loans of £337m by local authorities and state industries. This bears out government claims that the big increase in its on-lending to councils and nationalised corporations largely reflects a switch from other sources of funds rather than extra public spending.

## Distillers profit rises but outlook is poor

By Jeremy Warner

The Distillers Company yesterday unveiled better annual profits than expected, but promptly deflated the stock market's enthusiasm by predicting that this year's profits will be lower, fuelling a 12p fall in its share price to 220p.

The Scotch whisky group's pretax profits in the year to the end of last March rose by 13 per cent from £178.2m to £200.8m. The profits would have been even better had not the company departed from normal accounting practice and taken the extraordinary £8.3m cost of its distillery and bottling plant closure programme before tax.

But Mr John Connell, who takes over as chairman of the group, Scotland's largest company, in September, said the first 15 weeks of trading this year indicated that there would be a further decline in the volume of Whisky sales and profits.

The Distillers Company Year to 31.3.83  
Pretax profit £200.8m (£178.2m)  
Statutory earnings 36.58 (£37.2p)  
Turnover £127.2m (£1083.9m)  
making 13p  
Net dividend 8.5p (11.75p)  
Share price 220p down 12p. Yield 8.4%

The strength of the US dollar gave a significant boost to profits from the group's North American market, which accounts for almost 40 per cent of sales.

Although the United States Scotch market has been falling steadily for two years, Distillers' leading standard brands of Dewar and Johnnie Walker Red Label have been attracting higher sales than the market as a whole.

Latin America, West Africa and Australia have all been poor markets for Scotch and are worsening. The group expects sales to Venezuela this year to more than halve.

### IN BRIEF

● **STEEL OUTPUT:** Production of steel by the British Steel Corporation and the private sector averaged 298,700 tonnes a week in the first half of the year, 3.9 per cent below the same period of 1982. The output is expected to rise during the rest of the year to a total of more than 14m tonnes against the year's 13.7m tonnes. Production in June averaged 294,900 tonnes a week, 3.1 per cent higher than a year earlier.

● **JAPAN MOVE:** Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, has given his ruling Liberal Democratic Party two months to find new ways of boosting imports. The move coincides with Western predictions of \$30bn (£19.6bn) this year.

● **CLUFF LOSS:** Cluff Oil yesterday reported a pretax loss of £2,000 for 1982 compared with a loss of £522,000 the year before. An increased loss on operations of £2.29m (£1.54m) was offset by higher net profits from sale of investments. No dividend will be paid.

● **EUROFERRIES CHIEF:** Mr Ken Siddle has been appointed chairman of European Ferries after the death of Mr Keith Wickenden last weekend. Mr Siddle will also continue as managing director, a post he has held for 12 years.

● **ELM EXPANSION:** Duton Meditech, a biotechnology company, is the first to try to raise capital direct from the investing public under the Government's new Business Expansion Scheme. Duton hopes to raise just over £1m by selling half its share capital to individuals, who can buy a minimum of 1,000 shares at 115p each.

Commercial banks believe Brazil will need \$3bn of fresh funds this year and \$5bn next, once agreement has been reached with the IMF. However, bankers are expecting governments and the IMF to provide some of this.

● **Nigeria has signed a re-financing agreement with 25 international banks, converting \$1.6bn overdue trade debts into a three-year loan.**

### City Editor's Comment

## UK airports on the runway for selloff

It is not surprising that the Government is casting its covetous eye over the British Airports Authority as it studies its privatization options. The authority presented its annual report and accounts yesterday, and it is clear that, unlike its old neighbour British Airways, it is financially healthy enough to take an early path to the private sector.

In contrast to the regulatory and legal complications that have beset the preparation of such issues as Britoil and British Telecom, there need not be too many technical problems either.

Mr Norman Payne, the authority's chairman, said yesterday that he has been given a month to six weeks to tell Mr Tom King, the new Transport Secretary, his views about the shape the issue should take. The authority is naturally keen to see the company sold in its entirety, and will argue that case strongly.

A simple flotation of the whole, lumping together the traffic and duty free sales businesses, has the merits of simplicity and being relatively easy to implement. A flotation could probably be done by next Easter, and raise £400m to £500m of relatively easy money.

The authority has assets of nearly £1bn in the balance sheet, very little debt, and the prospect, despite hefty investment commitments for the second Gatwick terminal and terminal four at Heathrow, of improving profits and cash flow.

### Improvement

This year the authority is forecasting an improvement in trading profits from £35m to £37.1m, and its corporate plan (which admittedly hardly carries the authority of Moses' tablets) talks about trading profit of £104.1m by 1987/88.

It is true that a large chunk of the authority's income comes from duty-free sales, and some £15m to £20m of sales would be threatened if moves to eliminate intra-EEC duty free sales succeeded. But that threat seems to be passing, and traffic through airports is improving.

### Simplicity

This has plenty of merit. Mr King has been hinting that he might prefer individual sales airport by airport. It seems obvious that a sale of parts would raise more than the sale of the whole.

Imagine, for example, the rush there would be, even from the grumpiest air travellers, for shares in Heathrow as a separate company, unencumbered by Prestwick and the other problem airports in Scotland.

But selling off the prime sites first would leave problems with the rump, not to mention such interesting subsequent questions as who would build and pay for Stansted (if the development is approved).

Second quarter passenger traffic is up by 3 per cent (against 1 per cent for 1982-83 as a whole), and the authority is expecting the annual increase to emerge at 2.5 per cent.

The end of the landing fees controversy with the airlines - which held up all previous effort to privatize the authority - must rank as one of the happier strokes of fortune to have greeted Mr Lawson, the Chancellor, when not all has gone his way so far.

## Imperial up 20pc in first half

By Philip Robinson

Imperial Group, the tobacco and drinks giant, yesterday reported a 20 per cent profit for the six months to last April as part of its fight back to recovery.

Asset sale, cost savings and lower interest rates accounted for much of the rise. Analysts suggested that cigarette markets remained flat but figures from tobacco rose because overheads came down. The contribution there went up from £467m to £543m.

Imperial made group profits of £79.1m against £65.8m last year on sales down from £2.4bn

Imperial Group Half-year to 30.4.83  
Pretax profit £79.1m (£65.8m)  
Statutory earnings 7.7p (fully diluted) (7.0p)  
Turnover £2,128m (£2,437m)  
Net interim dividend 2.75p (2.75p)  
Share Yield Dividend

to £2.1bn. The group benefited from a drop in interest charges from £22.6m to £14.5m. But Imperial has decided against increasing the half-time dividend. That remains at 2.75p a share costing £19.9m. Last year the figure has to be met largely from reserves. This year it is covered almost three times

by the £42m profit attributable to shareholders. Analysts are looking for an increase in the final dividend to lift the year's total, and keep the shares attractive to investors looking for income.

Yesterday, the shares touched 132p before easing to close a penny firmer at 119p. Imperial says profits for the full year should beat inflation. Guesses for that range between 5 and 7 per cent which would translate for Imperial as a pretax profit of £166m for the 12 months to the end of October. Analysts are looking for about £179m.

## Seafirst Corporation

has sold to

## The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

its interest in

## Seattle-First National Bank (Switzerland) Zurich

which has now been renamed

## Williams & Glyn's Bank A.G.

The undersigned acted as financial advisors to Seafirst Corporation.

## The First Boston Corporation

## Credit Suisse First Boston Limited

July 14, 1983

## Florida adopts unitary tax

By Michael Prest

Florida as become the twelfth American state to introduce unitary on companies. The move, which coincides with the dispatch of a protest letter from Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, to Washington, is bound to intensify the dispute over this type of taxation.

The Florida legislation voted on Tuesday to adopt unitary taxation, also known as worldwide combined reporting. Its decision comes only a fortnight after the Supreme Court upheld the right of states to adopt unitary taxation, and is

sure to increase fears that other states may follow suit.

Under unitary taxation a government taxes a company or business within its jurisdiction on the percentage its operations represent of the worldwide profits, turnover, payroll or assets of the group of which that business is part, instead of charging it simply on the profits made in the state or country, as is usual.

British and other foreign companies with operations in the US believe that much higher tax bills could result.

### Deal with IMF looks closer

## Brazil accepts more austerity

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

A further round of austerity measures announced by the Brazilian government has raised hopes that it can reach early agreement with the International Monetary Fund, averting a crisis over the country's \$90bn (£59bn) debts.

In response to growing pressure from the IMF and the Bank for International Settlements, the Brazilians have taken steps towards de-indexing their economy - one of the key sticking points with the IMF.

Inflation index rates for rents, mortgages and most wages are being cut to 80 per cent of the rate of inflation. Most wages were previously raised at least in line with inflation.

Brazil has already removed some big price rises on petrol and wheat last month from the inflation index, prompting a round of strikes in the country where inflation was running at 127 per cent in June.

Mr Eduardo Weisner head of the IMF term in Brazil said on Tuesday that negotiations were going very well, and in Washington yesterday, Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board said he was optimistic about the situation.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons there was hope that negotiations would be completed today.



Industrial notebook

## Cars: patriotism is not enough

When it comes to patriotism – and it often does in a highly taxed society such as this – among the most popular is the company car. Despite attracting the attention of the Inland Revenue, they have continued to proliferate.

With the company-owned car accounting for probably 70 per cent of the new car market, the industry – ever sensitive to the questions and always ready to bash the Japanese in particular – has consistently maintained that it is a segment dominated by domestic producers. British companies prefer to buy British cars, it is said.

The truth, however, is that the import penetration of the company fleet is much higher than the industry, or the Government for that matter, will admit. There are simply not enough British-made cars available.

The latest to fall into the trap of believing that patriotism is the saviour of the motor industry is the British Institute of Management which in its otherwise admirable annual survey of business cars published this week says: "Despite ever increasing foreign competition, British car manufacturers continue to dominate the company car market. This market is vital for the well-being of the British motor industry."

It adds, in parenthesis and somewhat lamely, that "British" refers to BL, Ford, Talbot and Vauxhall "even though some models are assembled elsewhere in Europe".

The institute must realize that this is a gross understatement. Look, for example, at Ford the market leader, and the proportion of its cars that are sold in Britain but made elsewhere. In the first six months of this year, the American company sold 278,962 cars in Britain, of which 78,737 came from West Germany, 30,333 from Belgium and 17,172 from Spain.

These three countries built more than 45 per cent of the Ford cars sold in Britain, while British factories made 145,470 cars for sale domestically, a share of 52 per cent.

It is possible and understandable for a private car buyer to scorn a Ford with an "As-

sembled in West Germany" label in favour of what seems to be an identical, but British-made, model.

A company buyer, wanting 20 or 200 cars and instructed to buy British, is not similarly constrained; one Escort looks like another and who cares as long as the car park is not full of Renaults, Audis, or Toyotas?

Vauxhall, whose Cavalier has taken the market, and the company sector, by storm, is another favourite among the fingoistic fleet buyers. But the half-year sales figure for British-built Vauxhalls is only 66,324, compared with 33,307 imported from West Germany and 20,593 from Belgium.

Of the 130,652 General Motors cars sold in Britain in the six months, half were imported, including German and Belgian Opels, and it is a fair bet that most joined company fleets.

The total number of imports from Ford and GM European factories in the six months was 264,144, well over half the two companies' total British sales. This compares with a total BL sales figure of 166,705 on the home market which includes the Metro, a non-company car.

The conclusion must be that the "free car" market is dominated by imports, whatever the declared buying policies of the big company purchasers.

American multinationals stress that their plants are in the European Community, a single trading block where there is free passage of goods. The enormous European price differentials for cars undermine that argument and the success of the Belgium factory does little to create or safeguard jobs on Merseyside.

Which brings us back neatly to the Japanese. Nissan should now make up its mind about its proposed car manufacturing plant for Britain, a project which could create 5,000 direct jobs and on which it has dithered for too long.

When the first British-built Datsuns leave the assembly lines it will be interesting to note how many are bought by patriotic British companies to replace German Fords or Belgian Vauxhalls.

Edward Townsend

Trafalgar House still intends to pursue its takeover bid for P&O, despite the Monopolies Commission referral. Wayne Lintott asked Trafalgar's chairman about his present thinking

## Why Nigel Brookes stops laughing

Mr Nigel Brookes, the 48-year-old chairman of Trafalgar House, the property-to-shipping conglomerate, laughs a lot. He even laughs at the present troubles of his 15-year-old flagship, Cunard's QE2.

Turbine problems – as a troopship she steamed the 13,000 miles to the Falklands at her full 28 knots – have lost Cunard £3.5m in revenue already but the liner will be back in service at the end of the month.

"Whenever anything goes wrong with her, and that is at least once a year, it costs a million minimum. It does not matter what it is. It always costs at least a million."

What took the smile from his face was the prospect of Mr Jeffrey Sterling becoming chairman of P & O and bringing a large chunk of his Town and City property company with him. The scenario was floated in the City last week.

"It is not something we would like to see," Mr Brookes said firmly. "P & O buying Town and City's service division. We would certainly not want it or P & O with it for that matter."

Mr Brookes said that he intends seeking undertakings that P & O does not acquire any Town and City assets. This may be difficult.

The Office of Fair Trading said yesterday that there was no rule to prevent P & O acquiring



Brookes: he even laughs at the troubles of the QE2 (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

Town and City assets or for that matter any other company. "Such an action," an OFT official said, "would be treated as a totally separate proposition to the one currently being studied by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission."

Mr Sterling, chairman of Town and City, was made non-executive deputy-chairman of P & O two weeks ago, and has made clear his availability for the chairmanship, also a non-executive position. The present chairman, Lord Inchcape, and the managing director, Mr. Oliver Brooks, were due to retire last month but stayed on

to fight off Mr Brookes £290m takeover bid.

A P & O boardroom reshuffle could take place as early as September and a power play is in progress over the appointments to the executive director positions. It is known that Mr Sterling would like to bring his Town and City management team with him. The present incumbent, Mr Brooks, has his own people in mind to replace him when he steps down to take on a non-executive role.

Mr Sterling, said Mr Brookes, knows nothing about shipping, which is a considerable part of P & O's business.

"If the Town and City scenario is just a financial deal, part of P & O's defensive tactics, then we would obviously try and stop it."

When Mr Brookes met Lord Inchcape and Mr Brooks for 20 minutes last May, to discuss the takeover, the atmosphere was cordial.

"I think," said Mr Brookes, "that if pressed Mr Brooks would feel that Trafalgar is the best bet, subject to terms."

I took Mr Brookes on his word and pressed Mr Brooks for his feelings. "Absolutely not," responded Mr Brooks. "There is no

rationale to the merger at all. Over a very large area, both businesses are different and the companies are run totally differently."

He was obviously relishing ending his career on the bridge of the P & O ship repelling boarders.

The men agreed that the Monopolies review would take longer than the six months allocated. They agreed nine months or more, which obviously suits P & O but makes it still vulnerable to other predators, should Trafalgar fail.

The charges levelled against Trafalgar during the struggle do not disturb Mr Brookes one iota.

On foreign registration of ships, his answer is that P & O has eight ships registered abroad, Cunard only three. "And under our Bahamian registration it is written into the articles (which he produced) that in an emergency the Government can requisition the ships."

There is absolutely no question that Cunard ships will be available to the Government in an emergency. Cunard employs far more British seamen and on all such chauvinistic fronts Cunard comes out looking far better than P & O.

Mr Brookes feels that, taking a world rather than a purely parochial view, the merger holds significant benefits for the country, particularly in domi-

nating the top and middle ends of the passenger business (The Russians are successfully grabbing the cheaper end).

P & O's order of the Royal Princess – to compete with the QE2 – would also give Trafalgar some very substantial tax benefits at a time when the passenger business is showing a significant upturn.

No coincidence, perhaps, for a man well respected for his acumen. Which led the conversation to his decision not to buy a larger P & O stake in the market than the seven per cent Trafalgar already holds (under P & O's Royal Charter it is exempt from disclosure provisions of 1981 companies act).

"There are many millions of shares held in arbitrage positions, particularly by Americans. If another big game hits town or the delay goes on too long for their comfort and they start to unload, then we may decide to move in at that time," Mr Brookes said, back to laughing again.

In 1963 Mr Brookes, only 28, was a director at Trafalgar when it turned over some £5m a year. By 1968 he was deputy chairman and his own personal wealth was estimated at around £5m.

Now he heads an empire which includes Cunard, Trollope and Colls and a large container operation. All of which turns over more than £1,000m a year.

# "The BAA's profit and investment record remains second to none."

The following are extracts from the Chairman, Norman Payne's, introduction to the British Airports Authority Annual Report and Accounts for 1982/83.

Despite the prolonged recession affecting the United Kingdom and world economies, passenger traffic at the BAA's seven airports increased by 1.0 per cent during the fiscal year 1982/83 to 43.4 million.

### TRAFFIC

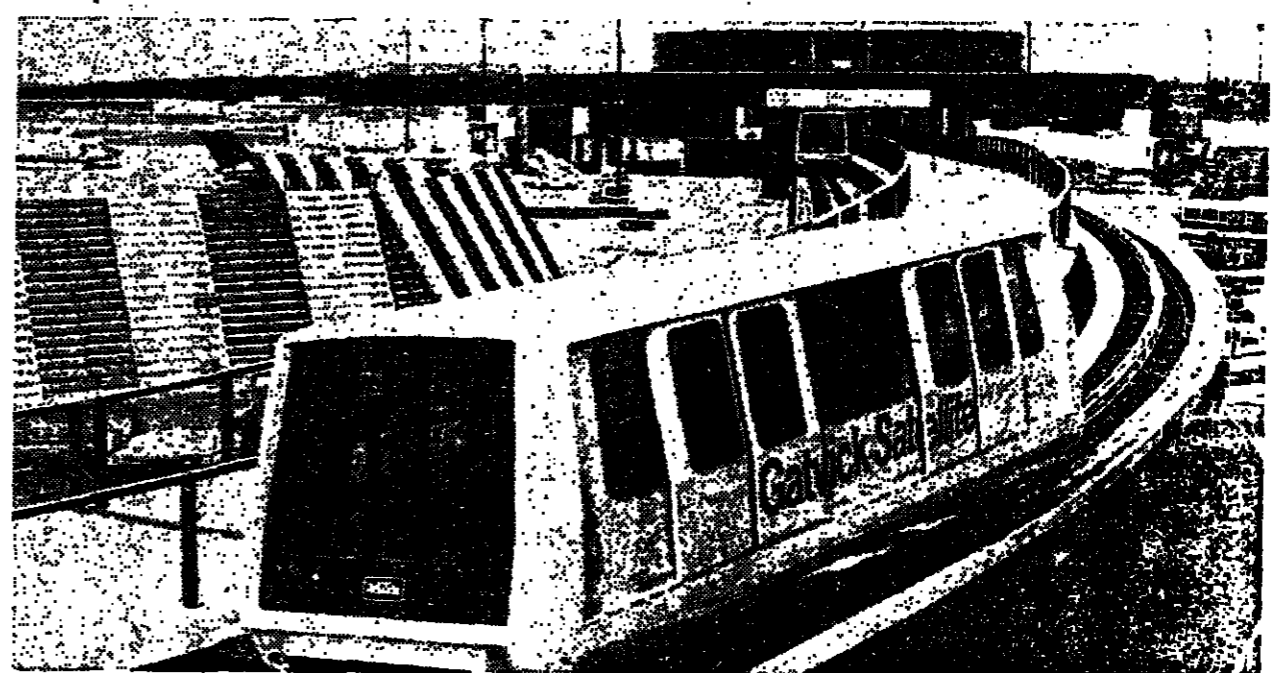
The continued relative strength of the pound during the key early part of the financial year helped the outbound holiday market while exerting a braking effect on inbound tourism. In addition, a slow-down in trade and business activity generally explains much of the contrast between the results of the various airports. Heathrow, for example, again lost ground to Gatwick because of its greater business and foreign tourist components. Scottish Airports showed greater percentage growth than the South East group because of the buoyant domestic sector, partly due to the introduction of a new carrier on the main trunk routes. Continued growth in offshore oil-related traffic at Aberdeen and a rapid rise in charter traffic also contributed significantly to the Scottish result.

A 4.2 per cent increase in air transport movements to 559,000 recovered the traffic lost through air traffic control disputes during the previous year. Cargo tonnage was down again by 3.2 per cent to 599,000 tonnes, although there were signs towards the end of the year that the slide was being arrested.

### PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The three-year period for the achievement of performance targets, agreed with the Government in February 1980, ended in the financial year under review. A 5.0 per cent return on average net assets over the period was below the target by 1.0 per cent. We came close to achieving the productivity target but increases in external costs, beyond the BAA's control, severely affected the cost reduction outcome. Negotiations for new targets are now in hand.

Profit transferred to reserves of £21 million was £1.4 million (6.2 per cent) down on the previous year. The drop in current cost operating profit of £8.3 million reflects the landing fee freeze throughout the year although this was minimised by an increase in commercial income of 12.0 per cent. While our trading profit (of £35.0 million) decreased for only the third time in the Authority's 17 year history, capital investment at £98.3 million – equivalent to more than one third of total income – represents an 81 per cent increase on the 1979/80 position. The



Gatwick's new Super-1 is linked to the main terminal building by a Rapid Transit System – the first of its kind in Europe

BAA's profit and investment record remains second to none.

### THE AIRPORTS

The Government decision to grant planning permission for the second terminal at Gatwick, together with good progress on the Terminal 4 development at Heathrow, effectively ensures the provision of airport capacity in the South East for the remainder of this decade. The Public Inquiry into the location of additional terminal capacity for the London area in the 1990s is now nearly complete. A decision on this development will be needed in 1984 to ensure that the strong underlying trend of long term growth in air transport demand can be met. The BAA responded to the recommendations of the National Economic Development Office Air Cargo Com-

mittee report – that it should act as the co-ordination body for the development of London as a cargo gateway – by setting up a task force to promote air cargo at its South East airports.

### AIRPORT USERS

The development of closer consultation with air transport users of the BAA's airports was consolidated following the amicable settlement of the litigation being pursued by certain airlines at Heathrow. Both sides have now gained a better understanding of each others' position and arrangements as to the future have been made to maintain this through improved consultation.

The work of the Consultative Committees at each of the seven airports plays a vital part in the BAA's contact with those who use our airports, are affected by their operation or who work in them.

### CONCLUSION

The slight downturn in the BAA's performance compared with 1981/82 reflects the continued economic recession and the contribution made by the Authority to the air transport industry through the freezing of charges. At the end of the year the first firm signs of growth in traffic were apparent and the Board, management, and staff of the Authority are ready to meet the upturn with improved performance and service to our customers.

British Airports

## UNION DE BANQUES ARABES ET FRANCAISES – U.B.A.F.

US\$65,000,000 Floating Rate Notes 1980-1990

In accordance with the conditions of the Notes notice is hereby given that for the six-month period 12th July, 1983 to 12 January, 1984 (184 days) the Notes will carry an interest rate of 10 1/4% p.a.

Relevant interest payments will be as follows:  
Notes of \$1,000 US\$54.94

CREDIT LYONNAIS, Luxembourg  
Fiscal Agent

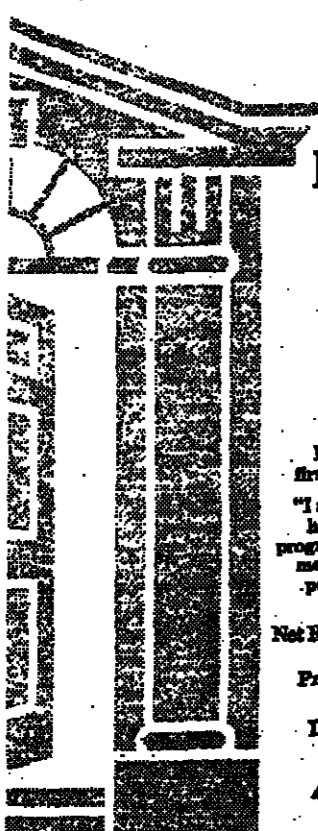
## PRIVREDNA BANKA ZAGREB

FLOATING RATE NOTES  
DUE 1986

In accordance with the conditions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the six-month period June 24th, 1983 to December 28th 1983 (187 days) the Notes will carry an interest rate of 11 1/4% p.a.

Notes of US\$1,000 US\$57.46 per coupon

CREDIT LYONNAIS (London Branch)  
Agent Bank



## HASLEMERE ESTATES

Report and Accounts  
Year ended 31st March, 1983

David M. Fickford, FRICS, in his first Statement as Chairman, reports: "I am happy to say that the Company has continued a very encouraging programme of expansion and the development in hand will put us in a strong position for growth in the future."

Net Rental Revenue up 11.4% to £14.8m.

Pre-tax Profit up 16.6% to £7.1m.

Dividends increased by 14.5%.

4 Carlton Place, London W1Y 5AE



## Profits up at Crown House

By Jeremy Warner

Crown House  
Year to 31.3.83  
Pre-tax profit £3.83m (£2.56m)  
Stated earnings 10.8p (5.1p)  
Turnover £184.12m (£148.48m)  
Net final dividend 3.5p making 5.75p (5.25p)  
Share price 82p up 11p. Yield 8.2%

A big recovery in profits was unveiled yesterday by Crown House, the engineering to Denby tableware group.

Pre-tax profits in the year ending last March rose by nearly half from £2.56m to £3.83m on sales up a quarter to £184.12m. But they are still well below the £4.55m the group reported for the year to March 1980.

Improved figures in electrical and mechanical services were offset to some extent by costs incurred in reorganization of production at Denby Tableware which slumped into the red last year.

The company expects further progress in electrical and mechanical services, especially in overseas markets.

## Sugar suppliers shun Morocco

By Michael Prest

Morocco has been ostracized by the leading international sugar traders who are refusing supplies to the country while an arbitration award against it is not honoured. But there is no immediate danger of Morocco running out of sugar.

The Moroccan National Office of Tea and Sugar has not paid \$10.6m, plus interest at 18.5 per cent a year, to Philippine Sugar Trading (London), the British office of a Philippines government company.

The Council of the Sugar Association of London, acting as arbitrator, found in April last year that Morocco had refused in April 1981 to take delivery of three cargoes totalling 33,000 tonnes of sugar.

The sugar was part of a 100,000-tonne contract agreed in May 1980. The office argued for payment, claiming that it had been instructed by the Moroccan Government not to take delivery. The argument was rejected by the arbitrators. Court appeals in both Britain and Morocco also failed.

Sugar trade sources say that the real problem was that by the

delivery date sugar prices had fallen well below those contracted. The first cargo, for example, had been contracted at \$890 a tonne while the market price fell to \$564; prices for the other cargoes fell to \$490 from a contracted price of \$810.

Morocco consumes about 670,000 tonnes of sugar a year, of which a bit less than half is imported. Traders in London, Paris and New York have refused to accept new business since it became clear that the arbitration award was not being honoured. Because Morocco buys a long time ahead, some outstanding contracts have still to be delivered. The last such contract was signed in September 1982 for delivery in April 1984.

These shipments could be stretched out and Morocco's own crop is available between April and September. But the traders, who dominate the business, have closed ranks against agreeing to new contracts. At the end of last week there were no offers from anywhere in the world in reply to Moroccan tender for 14,000 tonnes.

## COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

**Halsamere record:** Halsamere Estates, the London-based property group, reports record profits for the year to March 31. Profit before tax rose from £8.7m to £7.08m - the first time they have passed £7m.

However, profit after tax was down from £5.24m to £4.88m because of heavier taxation. The year 1981-82 was the last year to benefit from Advanced Corporation Tax brought forward from previous years which cut the tax charge for 1981-82 by £1.4m.

Rental revenue expanded from £13.33m to £14.84m. Earnings per share, on a net basis, are down from 18.06p to 16.75p, but on a nil basis are up from 14.48p to 16.75p.

The total net dividend a share is being raised from 6.5p to 7.5p. At the year-end, the net asset value of the company's shares - on a diluted basis - was £5.78, compared with £5.63 a year earlier.

**Dance Investment Trust**  
Year to 31.5.83  
Pre-tax revenue, £539,000 (£556,000)  
Stated earnings (on income earned), £259,000 (£267,000)  
Net dividend, 4.0p (4.0p).

**Munford & White**  
Year to 31.3.83  
Pre-tax profits, £452,000 (£515,000)  
Stated earnings, 8.4p (8.5p)  
Turnover, £2.11m (£1.44m)  
Net dividend, 1.0p as forecast in prospectus.

**Moorside Trust**  
Half-year to 30.6.83  
Pre-tax revenue, £524,000 (£418,000)  
Stated earnings, 1.82p (1.31p)  
Net interim dividend, 1.0p (1.0p).

**Parthen Securities**  
Year to 31.12.82  
Pre-tax profit, £99,000 (£91,000)  
Stated earnings, 30.2p (25.2p)  
Turnover, £489,000 (£522,000)  
Net dividend, 5.0p (nil).

**McMullen & Sons**  
Year to 31.5.83  
Pre-tax profit, £1.18m (£1.25m)  
Turnover, £9.44m (£8.61m).

**Espley-Tyas Property Group**  
Half-year to 31.3.83  
Pre-tax profit, £1.3m (£1.2m)  
Stated earnings, 30.2p (25.2p)  
Turnover, £28.79m (£23.15m)  
Net interim dividend, 1.65p (1.5p).

**Bromsgrove Casting & Machining**  
Year to 31.3.83  
Pre-tax profit, £140,000 (£172,000)  
Turnover, £4.08m (£3.82m)  
Net dividend, 2.25p (2.25p).

**Greycoat City Offices**  
Year to 31.3.83  
Pre-tax profit, £1.82m (£810,000)  
Stated earnings, 5.7p (3.4p)  
Net dividend, 1.15p (1.0p).

**Voeger**  
Half-year to 30.4.83  
Pre-tax profit, £752,000 (£898,000)  
Stated earnings, 11.5p (10.5p)  
Turnover, £14.84m (£15.4m)  
Net interim dividend, 2.0p (2.0p).

**A-R Television (member of the B.E.T. Group; results incorporate A-R TV's associate, Thames Television)**  
Year to 31.3.83  
Pre-tax profit, £7.68m (£8.04m)  
Net dividend, 48.22p (49.59p).

**Philip Harris (Holdings)**  
Year to 31.3.83  
Pre-tax profit, £487,000 (£879,000)  
Stated earnings, 11.03p (10.35p)  
Turnover, £21.26m (£18.82m)  
Net dividend, 6.75p (6.5p).

**George Dew**  
Half-year to 1.5.83  
Pre-tax profit, £878,000 (£910,000)  
Stated earnings, 5.4p (5.7p)  
Turnover, £13.29m (£13.83m)  
Net interim dividend, 2.3p (2.3p).

**Jones, Stroud (Holdings)**  
Year to 31.3.83  
Pre-tax profit, £2.73m (£2.8m)  
Stated earnings, 20.23p (16.05p)  
Turnover, £20.56m (£23.27m)  
Net dividend, 6.0p (5.2p).

**Ladies Pride**  
Half-year to 31.5.83  
Pre-tax profit, £74,000 (£165,000)  
Stated earnings, 0.52 (1.0p)  
Turnover, £3.1m (£3.38m)  
Net interim dividend, 0.5p (1.4p).

## Imperial Group INTERIM REPORT 1983

When comparing the operational activities of one half year against another, the most meaningful basis is to consider those businesses which formed part of the Group in both periods and to exclude companies which have been sold during or since the earlier period. The details in respect of sales and trading surplus indicate that position. So as to give the total picture, the effect is also shown on the first half of 1982 of the aggregate performance of those companies which were sold during that year, mainly in poultry, eggs and plastics.

On this basis of comparison, Group trading surplus improved by 12% over the first half of last year.

Borrowings were less as a consequence of the proceeds of the disposals. This factor, together with lower interest rates, resulted in much reduced interest charges.

Group profit before tax, at £79.1 million, and the corresponding earnings per share, were both 20% better than the levels of the first half of last year.

The greater profitability, combined with a higher effective rate of tax, led to the increased tax charge.

The charge for extraordinary items, which was considerably less than in 1982, related mainly to the revised terms of the sale of the Group's poultry and egg operations (details of which were announced last

April), and also included some rationalisation in the Howard Johnson Division.

In the view of the Board, this is a satisfactory outcome overall in a period in which the two major countries in which the Group operates, the U.K. and the U.S.A., were still in difficult economic climates, with selling prices and volumes remaining under pressure.

Given the start made in the first six months and in the absence of abnormal conditions which cannot currently be foreseen, it is now expected that the percentage increase in Group pre-tax profits for the year as a whole will be ahead of inflation. That outcome will be a further step towards the objective of re-positioning the Group on the path of sustained growth which began in the second half of 1981.

The Directors have decided to declare an interim dividend at the same rate as that of last year, namely 2.75p per share. This will absorb £19.9 million (1982 £19.8 million). Warrants will be dated 1st November 1983 and will be posted to those shareholders who are registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 3rd October, 1983.

By order of the Board  
Peter M. Davies  
Group Secretary

14th July, 1983.

| £ million  | Group Results (Unaudited)    |         |                  |
|--|------------------------------|---------|------------------|
|  | Half-year to 30th April 1983 | 1982    | % Change on 1982 |
| <b>External Sales</b>                                |                              |         |                  |
| Tobacco  | 1,203.1                      | 1,232.1 |                  |
| Brewing and Leisure                                  | 419.3                        | 394.9   |                  |
| Food   | 301.4                        | 286.2   |                  |
| Howard Johnson                                       | 220.9                        | 177.0   |                  |
| Other activities                                     | 12.0                         | 13.8    |                  |
|  | 2,156.7                      | 2,104.0 | +2.1%            |
| <b>Disposed businesses</b>                           |                              |         |                  |
| Intra Group Sales                                    | (30.3)                       | (26.0)  |                  |
|  | 2,126.4                      | 2,437.1 |                  |
| <b>Trading Surplus</b>                               |                              |         |                  |
| Tobacco  | 54.3                         | 46.7    |                  |
| Brewing and Leisure                                  | 28.1                         | 26.5    |                  |
| Food   | 10.4                         | 9.9     |                  |
| Howard Johnson                                       | (0.5)                        | (0.5)   |                  |
| Other activities                                     | 0.3                          | 0.1     |                  |
|  | 92.6                         | 82.7    | +12%             |
| <b>Disposed businesses</b>                           |                              |         |                  |
|  | —                            | 5.0     |                  |
|  | 92.6                         | 87.7    |                  |
| <b>Share of Associates' Profits</b>                  | 1.0                          | 0.7     |                  |
| <b>Interest net of Investment Income</b>             | (14.5)                       | (22.6)  |                  |
| <b>Profit before taxation</b>                        | 79.1                         | 65.8    | +20%             |
| <b>Taxation</b>                                      | (23.2)                       | (15.3)  |                  |
| <b>Profit after taxation</b>                         | 55.9                         | 50.5    | +11%             |
| <b>Minority interests</b>                            | (0.1)                        | (0.1)   |                  |
|  | 55.8                         | 50.4    |                  |
| <b>Extraordinary items</b>                           | (13.8)                       | (66.6)  |                  |
| <b>Profit/(Deficit) attributable to Shareholders</b> | 42.0                         | (16.2)  |                  |
| <b>Earnings per share</b>                            |                              |         |                  |
| — before taxation                                    | 10.9p                        | 9.1p    | +20%             |
| — after taxation                                     | 7.7p                         | 7.0p    | +10%             |

### Notes:

1. Comparative figures have been restated to reflect the following:

- (a) the disposal of businesses in Divisions in 1982;
- (b) the effective tax rate applicable to the whole of 1982.

2. In the first half of 1982 cigarette sales were inflated by heavy trade ordering which was prolonged until the middle of April when the Chancellor's March Budget increases were implemented. Some of these sales would normally have

been made in the second half of the year and it was concluded that a fairer view would be given of the profit pattern over the two halves of 1982 by transferring to the second half-year an amount of £10 million to reflect the effect of this pattern of sales. In 1983 manufacturers did not delay increasing prices following the Chancellor's Budget and consequently trade stocks at 30th April, 1983 were significantly lower than in the previous year. No adjustment to profits is therefore appropriate at this half-year stage.

3. The current cost profit before taxation was £50 million (1982 £36 million) after allowing for a peering adjustment of £7 million (1982 £10 million).

Imperial Group plc, Imperial House, 1 Grosvenor Place, London, SW1X 7HB

## Boardroom shuffle at STC

Standard Telephones and Cables: Mr John Cottrell is to be managing director of STC Telecommunications, he relinquishes the post of managing director of STC Communications International, but remains a director and continues on the boards of Standard Telecommunications Laboratories and IAL. STC Telecommunications will be enlarged to include STC's Cable products Division and Defence Systems Division both were previously part of STC Communications International. Mr James Uterson, deputy chairman and managing director of IAL, replaces Mr Cottrell as managing director of STC Communications International. He also

### APPOINTMENTS

takes over the chair of IAL from Sir Kenneth Corfield, chairman and chief executive of Standard Telephones and Cables.

Segas: Mr Simon Kirk has been appointed director of marketing.

Mobil Oil: Mr Alastair Lang has been elected to the board.

J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co: Messrs R.J.W. Henderson, P.A. Leonard and W.M. Samuel have been appointed assistant directors.

Select TV Communications: Mr Alan Morris has become managing director.

Woods of Colchester: Mr David Priest is the new managing director.

Warner Home Video, WEA Europe: Mr Byrnes has been promoted to vice president. He is currently managing director of Warner Home Video in the United Kingdom.

Shaw Carpets: Mr Leslie Silver has been appointed a non-executive director.

Premier Consolidated Oilfields: Dr Mauro Beltrandi has been appointed consultant for Italian operations and International Exploration. Dr Beltrandi was previously regional vice president of exploration for Gulf Oil Exploration and Production Company.

## Espley-Tyas

### Interim Report

| Half year to 31st March (unaudited) | 1983   | 1982   |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|
|                                     | £000   | £000   |
| Turnover                            | 28,795 | 23,159 |
| Profit before taxation              | 1,300  | 1,201  |
| Profit before extraordinary items   | 1,131  | 720    |
| Net dividend per share              | 1.65p  | 1.50p  |

Salient points from the Statement by Mr. R.A. Shuck, Chairman and Chief Executive

- \* Group's performance satisfactory - further progress forecast...
- \* Increased interim dividend - up 10%...
- \* Howard Tenens acquisition successfully completed - disposals to date £3m...
- \* Good progress in property lettings including major pre-let in Brussels to 3M Corporation...
- \* Housing division - advance continues...
- \* Construction order book at all time high - emphasis remains on design and build projects...
- \* US merger achieved - public offering of new shares planned for Autumn '83...

Copies of the Interim Report containing financial reports and Chairman's Statement in full are available from:- J. M. O'Connor, Esq., Espley-Tyas Property Group plc, Elizabeth House, Westbourne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3TR.

Espley-Tyas Property Group plc



# Crown House 1983.

## Conditions for growth restored

## Pre-tax profit up 50%

Illustrated here is a part of the priceless collection of plants in Decimus Burton's elegant Temperate House at Kew Gardens, where Crown House Engineering provided the electrical, heating and air conditioning services necessary to ensure that these plants can continue to thrive in an environment favouring healthy growth - one out of over 1,000 contracts in the U.K. completed during the year to 31st March 1983.

Crown House Engineering provides the full range of engineering services for industrial and commercial developments in the United Kingdom and throughout the free world.

Crown House Engineering is a member of the Crown House group which is comprised principally of two divisions (1) engineering contractors and merchants, and (2) tableware manufacturers and merchants. The group's business is carried on under the following trade names -

Crown House Engineering • Furse • Best and May  
Dema Glass • Thomas Webb • Edinburgh Crystal • Denby

These divisions operate in areas of business with growth potential as noted in the Chairman's annual statement:-

"The engineering services and tableware products provided by the group are likely to be the subject of growing demand as the years go by."

For a copy of the Annual Report, write to, or telephone, Norman Vigor at Crown House plc, 2 Lygon Place, London SW1W 0JT. Telephone 01-730 9287, Telex 918602.

### 1983 and 1982 results compared

| Years ending 31st March    | 1983       | 1982  | Increase |
|----------------------------|------------|-------|----------|
|                            | £ millions |       |          |
| Turnover                   | 184.1      | 148.5 | 24%      |
| Pre-tax profit             | 3.8        | 2.5   | 50%      |
| Net Assets                 | 21.2       | 19.6  | 8%       |
| Return on capital employed | 18%        | 13%   | 38%      |
| Ordinary dividend          | 5.75p      | 5.25p | 9½%      |
| Earnings per share         | 10.8p      | 5.1p  | 112%     |



**Crown House**  
You may not see us, but we're there.

**INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK** ● edited by Michael Preston

# Thorn profits

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**Thorn EMI**  
Year to 31.3.83.  
Pretax profit £122m (£105m).  
Stated earnings 36.4p (37.9p).  
Turnover £27.5m (£24.35m).  
Net final dividend 11.7p, making  
15.75p (14.625p).  
Share price 549p up 37p. Yield  
4.09%.

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Thorn EMI is back on a recovery course after the problems of the past year. Yesterday the shares were riding high at 549p, against a low of 380p last September, as analysts upgraded their profits forecasts for the current year.

The reason for the excitement was the publication of figures for the year ending March 31 showing a 16 per cent rise in pretax profits to £122m.

Turnover was up by 11 per cent to £27.15m, helped by a boom in consumer demand for electrical goods, after the relaxation of hire purchase controls and interest rates.

A strong performance from the British businesses, where profits grew by 48 per cent was enough to overcome the problems in overseas markets, particularly the US, where profits slumped by 37 per cent.

But both domestic and overseas figures contain anomalies.

In Britain the easing of hire purchase restrictions was cited as the reason for booming sales of video recorders. Thorn is making these at the rate of 30,000 a month, soon to rise to 40,000 a month, to give the company one third of the British market.

Sales of electrical appliances also grew with the trend, and there was a turnaround in the lighting division.

In North America, the problems of recession were coupled with the difficulty of matching the previous year's exceptional figures from the music business. Demand for Beatles products, in particular, fell after strong sales the previous year on the death of John Lennon.

An extraordinary charge of £25.6m is included to cover the £20m cost of mothballing the Thorn EMI videodisc plant in West Germany. The company still sees a market for the discs, but only when the video recorder boom falls away.

The balance of £5.6m has been set aside to cover the costs of further rationalization and redundancies.

Looking ahead, the group is confident of a better performance from its British and overseas businesses in the first

**THORN EMI**

**SHARE PRICE**

**DATASCREEN**

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

Looking ahead, the group is confident of a better performance from both British and overseas businesses in the first

Less clear is the reason for the breakdown of negotiations between the companies after talks lasting several months. Alexander & Alexander has indicated that, although there was no desperate need to

The World Bank, albeit a first-class name, is paying less than the yield on a comparable gilt, whereas borrowers on the bulldog market (domestic sterling fixed interest issues by foreign borrowers) inevitably pay a premium over gilt.

Eurosterling issues have little attraction for domestic British investors, but enough Belgian dentists, or even British dentists

Because it is bearer paper, there is no withholding tax, interest is paid gross and the bond can be held anonymously overseas. The size of the latest World Bank issue should also ensure it is freely negotiable

Top left: Fibre-optic scanning devices produced by Pilkington save time in checking French national lottery tickets – and virtually eliminate fraud.

Top right: Pilkington's specially strengthened Triplex windscreens protect train drivers from the arctic to the Australian outback.

Bottom left: Pilkington glass fibre in a glass/nylon composite clarinet.

Bottom right: Perhaps Britain's most elegant new houses, Barratt's development at Hampstead, have Pilkington Kappafloat glass in all the windows – because it's 30% more efficient than conventional double glazing.

Bank of America NT & SA London hereby give notice that in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above loan, the redemption of £1,500,000,000 Bonds due on 1st August 1989 has been carried out in the following manner:

US\$250,000 principal amount bonds have been purchased in the open market by the Company, the remaining US\$1,250,000,000 principal amount bonds have been drawn at par on 8th July 1989 in the presence of a Notary Public and the terms and conditions of the above loan.

Bonds drawn are listed below and may be presented to Bank of America NT & SA, 25 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF or to their other paying agents.

Bonds surrendered for redemption should have all unattached coupons appurtenant thereto, coupons due 1st August 1989 should be detached and presented to the paying agent.

Bonds will be received on any business day and must be left three clear working days for examination.

Yours faithfully,

|        |          |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 000008 | 001893   | 003934 | 006495 | 007782 | 007977 | 011674 | 012731 | 013684 |
| 000009 | 001894   | 003935 | 006496 | 007783 | 007978 | 011675 | 012732 | 013685 |
| 000023 | 001882   | 003930 | 006487 | 007767 | 007970 | 011650 | 012744 | 013672 |
| 000024 | 001883   | 003931 | 006488 | 007768 | 007971 | 011651 | 012745 | 013673 |
| 000025 | 001884   | 003932 | 006489 | 007769 | 007972 | 011652 | 012746 | 013674 |
| 000054 | 001897   | 003945 | 006505 | 007780 | 007973 | 011653 | 012747 | 013675 |
| 000055 | 001898   | 003946 | 006506 | 007781 | 007974 | 011654 | 012748 | 013676 |
| 000100 | 001900   | 003946 | 006506 | 007781 | 007974 | 011654 | 012748 | 013676 |
| 000101 | 001901   | 003947 | 006507 | 007782 | 007975 | 011655 | 012749 | 013677 |
| 000211 | 001886   | 003938 | 006490 | 007774 | 007962 | 011642 | 012771 | 013670 |
| 000212 | 001887   | 003939 | 006491 | 007775 | 007963 | 011643 | 012772 | 013671 |
| 000243 | 001815   | 003786 | 006345 | 007652 | 007817 | 011574 | 012773 | 013523 |
| 000244 | 001816   | 003787 | 006346 | 007653 | 007818 | 011575 | 012774 | 013524 |
| 000245 | 001817   | 003788 | 006347 | 007654 | 007819 | 011576 | 012775 | 013525 |
| 000246 | 001818   | 003789 | 006348 | 007655 | 007820 | 011577 | 012776 | 013526 |
| 000257 | 001891   | 003937 | 006493 | 007778 | 007968 | 011648 | 012782 | 013678 |
| 000258 | 001892   | 003938 | 006494 | 007779 | 007969 | 011649 | 012783 | 013679 |
| 000259 | 001893   | 003939 | 006495 | 007780 | 007970 | 011650 | 012784 | 013680 |
| 000277 | 001932   | 003978 | 006537 | 007819 | 007999 | 011688 | 012817 | 013719 |
| 000278 | 001933   | 003979 | 006538 | 007820 | 008000 | 011689 | 012818 | 013720 |
| 000279 | 001934   | 003980 | 006539 | 007821 | 008001 | 011690 | 012819 | 013721 |
| 000287 | 001972   | 004014 | 006573 | 007857 | 008031 | 011719 | 012827 | 013734 |
| 000291 | 001973   | 004015 | 006574 | 007858 | 008032 | 011720 | 012828 | 013735 |
| 000292 | 001974   | 004016 | 006575 | 007859 | 008033 | 011721 | 012829 | 013736 |
| 000435 | 001985   | 004027 | 006586 | 007870 | 008044 | 011732 | 012840 | 013747 |
| 000436 | 001986   | 004028 | 006587 | 007871 | 008045 | 011733 | 012841 | 013748 |
| 000437 | 001987   | 004029 | 006588 | 007872 | 008046 | 011734 | 012842 | 013749 |
| 000438 | 001988   | 004030 | 006589 | 007873 | 008047 | 011735 | 012843 | 013750 |
| 000439 | 001989   | 004031 | 006590 | 007874 | 008048 | 011736 | 012844 | 013751 |
| 000440 | 001990   | 004032 | 006591 | 007875 | 008049 | 011737 | 012845 | 013752 |
| 000441 | 001991   | 004033 | 006592 | 007876 | 008050 | 011738 | 012846 | 013753 |
| 000442 | 001992   | 004034 | 006593 | 007877 | 008051 | 011739 | 012847 | 013754 |
| 000443 | 001993   | 004035 | 006594 | 007878 | 008052 | 011740 | 012848 | 013755 |
| 000444 | 001994   | 004036 | 006595 | 007879 | 008053 | 011741 | 012849 | 013756 |
| 000445 | 001995   | 004037 | 006596 | 007880 | 008054 | 011742 | 012850 | 013757 |
| 000446 | 001996   | 004038 | 006597 | 007881 | 008055 | 011743 | 012851 | 013758 |
| 000447 | 001997   | 004039 | 006598 | 007882 | 008056 | 011744 | 012852 | 013759 |
| 000448 | 001998   | 004040 | 006599 | 007883 | 008057 | 011745 | 012853 | 013760 |
| 000449 | 001999   | 004041 | 006600 | 007884 | 008058 | 011746 | 012854 | 013761 |
| 000450 | 002000   | 004042 | 006601 | 007885 | 008059 | 011747 | 012855 | 013762 |
| 000451 | 002001   | 004043 | 006602 | 007886 | 008060 | 011748 | 012856 | 013763 |
| 000452 | 002002   | 004044 | 006603 | 007887 | 008061 | 011749 | 012857 | 013764 |
| 000453 | 002003   | 004045 | 006604 | 007888 | 008062 | 011750 | 012858 | 013765 |
| 000454 | 002004   | 004046 | 006605 | 007889 | 008063 | 011751 | 012859 | 013766 |
| 000455 | 002005   | 004047 | 006606 | 007890 | 008064 | 011752 | 012860 | 013767 |
| 000456 | 002006   | 004048 | 006607 | 007891 | 008065 | 011753 | 012861 | 013768 |
| 000457 | 002007   | 004049 | 006608 | 007892 | 008066 | 011754 | 012862 | 013769 |
| 000458 | 002008   | 004050 | 006609 | 007893 | 008067 | 011755 | 012863 | 013770 |
| 000459 | 002009   | 004051 | 006610 | 007894 | 008068 | 011756 | 012864 | 013771 |
| 000460 | 002010   | 004052 | 006611 | 007895 | 008069 | 011757 | 012865 | 013772 |
| 000461 | 002011   | 004053 | 006612 | 007896 | 008070 | 011758 | 012866 | 013773 |
| 000462 | 002012   | 004054 | 006613 | 007897 | 008071 | 011759 | 012867 | 013774 |
| 000463 | 002013   | 004055 | 006614 | 007898 | 008072 | 011760 | 012868 | 013775 |
| 000464 | 002014   | 004056 | 006615 | 007899 | 008073 | 011761 | 012869 | 013776 |
| 000465 | 002015   | 004057 | 006616 | 007900 | 008074 | 011762 | 012870 | 013777 |
| 000466 | 002016   | 004058 | 006617 | 007901 | 008075 | 011763 | 012871 | 013778 |
| 000467 | 002017   | 004059 | 006618 | 007902 | 008076 | 011764 | 012872 | 013779 |
| 000468 | 002018   | 004060 | 006619 | 007903 | 008077 | 011765 | 012873 | 013780 |
| 000469 | 002019   | 004061 | 006620 | 007904 | 008078 | 011766 | 012874 | 013781 |
| 000470 | 002020   | 004062 | 006621 | 007905 | 008079 | 011767 | 012875 | 013782 |
| 000471 | 002021   | 004063 | 006622 | 007906 | 008080 | 011768 | 012876 | 013783 |
| 000472 | 002022   | 004064 | 006623 | 007907 | 008081 | 011769 | 012877 | 013784 |
| 000473 | 002023   | 004065 | 006624 | 007908 | 008082 | 011770 | 012878 | 013785 |
| 000474 | 002024   | 004066 | 006625 | 007909 | 008083 | 011771 | 012879 | 013786 |
| 000475 | 002025   | 004067 | 006626 | 007910 | 008084 | 011772 | 012880 | 013787 |
| 000476 | 002026   | 004068 | 006627 | 007911 | 008085 | 011773 | 012881 | 013788 |
| 000477 | 002027   | 004069 | 006628 | 007912 | 008086 | 011774 | 012882 | 013789 |
| 000478 | 002028   | 004070 | 006629 | 007913 | 008087 | 011775 | 012883 | 013790 |
| 000479 | 002029   | 004071 | 006630 | 007914 | 008088 | 011776 | 012884 | 013791 |
| 000480 | 002030   | 004072 | 006631 | 007915 | 008089 | 011777 | 012885 | 013792 |
| 000481 | 002031   | 004073 | 006632 | 007916 | 008090 | 011778 | 012886 | 013793 |
| 000482 | 002032   | 004074 | 006633 | 007917 | 008091 | 011779 | 012887 | 013794 |
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| 000531 | 002081</ |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |















